

INTERNATIONAL

Space-record cosmonaut returning to earth

MOSCOW, Dec 25. (Reuters): Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko, who has spent a record 323 days in space, will return to earth from the space station Mir on Dec 29 with his crewmate Alexander Alexandrov, a Soviet space official said today.

The announcement by Alexei Leonov, deputy chief of the cosmonaut training centre, was the first time Soviet officials have given a firm date for Romanenko's return. Earlier they had indicated he would return about 31.

"We plan that Romanenko and Alexandrov will land, return to earth, on the 29th, in a few days time," Leonov told a news conference at the Foreign Ministry.

Mission
He added that Romanenko, 43, would not be expected to take part in another space mission for the next year.

Romanenko, Alexandrov and three other Soviet cosmonauts who joined them this week are crowded aboard the Mir orbiting space station.

Alexandrov replaced Romanenko's original crewmate Alexander Laveikin, who was brought back to earth in July when his heartbeat developed

irregularities.

Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov and Anatoly Levchenko docked their Soyuz TM-4 space craft with Mir on Wednesday.

The Soviet news agency Tass said yesterday that they had begun conducting biological experiments and that all five cosmonauts were feeling well.

Levchenko will return to earth with Romanenko and Alexandrov.

Manage

The official Communist Party newspaper Pravda said today that Levchenko, a test pilot, will immediately be placed in a plane to test his ability to manage the controls after returning to conditions of gravity from weightlessness.

Referring to proposals for a joint US-Soviet flight to Mars, Leonov said that Soviet space officials had recently sent suggestions to the American side and they were still waiting for a reply.

"We can say that practical steps have already been taken," he said, but did not elaborate.

Leonov also gave details of plans for a Bulgarian cosmonaut, Alexandrov Panayotov, to join the Mir complex on June 21 next year for a 10-day mission.

Million mourn MGR

(Continued from Page 1)

Kazhagam Party is closely aligned with Rajiv's Congress Party.

Rajiv and President Ramaswamy Venkatarman went to Madras yesterday to offer condolences.

Ramachandran, who was born in 1917 on a tea plantation in Sri Lanka, was a central figure in mediations between New Delhi and Colombo on measures to end the four-year-old civil war on the island waged by Tamil

rebels for an independent Tamil homeland.

His death was mourned by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest rebel group in Sri Lanka, and President Junius Jayewardene.

In Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka, 300 people dressed in white and carrying black flags marched in a silent procession to pay respect to MGR and workers in tea plantations throughout the country stayed away from work to mourn his death.

Lebanese kidnappers silent amid wave of appeals

Millions around the world mark birth of Christ

WASHINGTON, Dec 25. (Agencies): From the recently reopened cathedrals of Beijing to Bethlehem's heavily guarded Manger Square, millions of Christians around the world today marked the birth of Christ nearly 2,000 years ago.

Christmas dawned first in the Pacific, where Australians and New Zealanders took advantage of the southern summer to head for the beach or enjoy backyard barbecues with family and friends.

In the Philippines, Asia's only Christian nation, a 48-hour ceasefire honouring the birth of Jesus brought a lull in the 18-year-old civil war. But one of history's worst maritime disasters left thousands of Filipinos grieving the loss of nearly 1,600 friends and relatives in the Sunday sinking of the passenger ship Dona Paz.

Tens of thousands of Chinese believers jammed churches to celebrate Christ's birth and the

slow revival of religion in officially atheist China, offering prayers and joyful carols once banned by the communist nation.

Beijing

Thick crowds packed Beijing's six largest Protestant churches for evening services and three major Roman Catholic cathedrals for midnight masses, among the first celebrated as the world turned toward Christmas day.

Thousands of American sailors spent a tense Christmas aboard US warships in the Gulf, some of them marking their first holiday away from home.

Aboard the USS Richmond K. Turner, older sailors tried to keep their minds off Christmas. Capt. John D. Luke offered cash prizes in acy-deucy, chess and cribbage tournaments, and the ship held a costume party with prizes.

But Robert Ritter, 19, of Port

Jefferson, New York, said all of the activities did not stop him from missing his family and girlfriend.

In the strife-torn holy land, a cold rain and unusually tight military security in the aftermath of widespread Palestinian rioting dampened Christmas celebrations.

Echoes

In the Vatican, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the birth of Jesus Christ at a midnight mass in the largest church in Christendom, telling the world he brings "good news of a great joy."

Dressed from mitre to slippers in gold and white, John Paul celebrated the 10th Christmas Eve mass of his pontificate at the towering marble altar of St. Peter's Basilica.

"I bring you good news of a great joy," he said, quoting from the gospel according to St. Luke. "Today the church echoes that voice in every corner of the earth: I bring you good news of a great

joy." In Beirut, kidnappers believed holding 24 foreigners in Lebanon kept silent today despite a chorus of Yuletide pleas for the release of their hostages. 10 of whom were spending their third Christmas in captivity.

Wives of both American and French kidnap victims, British Ambassador John Gray and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, all issued Christmas appeals.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad Organisation chose Christmas eve to issue a video tape of US journalist Terry Anderson, 40, the longest-held foreigner.

Anderson

The US State Department denounced the timing as cynical, saying all hostage statements were made under duress.

Anderson was seized on March 16, 1985, and has never seen his second daughter, born after his kidnapping. His message was bleak.

To President Reagan, he said: "Mr President, I say again this cannot continue. There is a limit for how long we can last and some of us are approaching their limit very badly."

In what appeared to be a prepared statement, he appealed to Reagan to work harder to secure the release of US hostages. Of the 24 foreigners, nine are Americans, five are French nationals and three are Britons.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth broke with royal protocol in a Christmas Day message by appearing to attack the guerrilla Irish Republican Army over a Northern Ireland bombing which killed 11 civilians.

"It is only too easy for passionate loyalty to one's own country, race or religion, or even to one's favourite football club, to be corroded into intolerance, bigotry and ultimately into violence," the Queen said in her annual Christmas Day television broadcast.

Security Council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

de Cuellar's request for a "fresh and resolute impulse" from the council to move toward ending the war.

Perez de Cuellar's request followed lengthy discussions he held separately with high-ranking officials from Iran and Iraq in early December, trying unsuccessfully to secure a ceasefire.

Asked whether the council now intends to seek an arms embargo against the two countries if resolution 598 is not carried out, Belongov said "definitely, we are moving in that direction."

But he said, "our action, concrete action, naturally will be governed by our assessment of the situation concerning consultations between the secretary-general and the two belligerents."

Train crash

ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX, France, Dec 25. (UPI): A woman and 40 other people were injured, 13 seriously, when two commuter trains, one empty, collided yesterday at a station southwest of Paris.

A train carrying about 400 commuters from Versailles into Paris for the last day of work before Christmas ran into an empty train that was switching off the main inbound line to a siding, officials said.

They said passenger Nicole Scao Meles, 44, of Versailles, was thrown from the first car of the occupied train and killed in the 8:45 am (0745 GMT) crash in Issy-Les-Moulineaux, just southwest of Paris.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Old liquor

BEIJING, Dec 25. (AP): Chinese archeologists say 3,000-year-old liquor discovered in a bronze container in central China still retains a fruity fragrance.

The official Xinhua news agency said yesterday that China's earliest liquor had been found at a burial site in Luoshan county, Henan province, thought to date back to the Shang Dynasty (16th to 11th centuries BC).

Businessman freed

PADUA, Italy, Dec 25. (Reuters): An Italian businessman abducted nearly three weeks ago was set free by his kidnappers today and returned to his family for Christmas Day.

Police said Claudio Sartori, 54, had been dumped overnight about 400 km south of his home at Montagnana, near the city of Padua. Police drove him home, his wife and four children on Christmas morning. He appeared in good health.

Xmas truce

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec 25. (AP): The Sandinista government and Contra rebels pledged to abide by a Christmas truce today, despite reports of at least three violations in its first 24 hours.

The two-day truce proposed by cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo was to start at midnight Wednesday. It was the first such agreement reached in six years of war between the leftist government and US-supported rebels.

Ingram dies

BURBANK, California, Dec 25. (AP): Silent screen actress Alice Terry Ingram, who co-starred with such early movie idols as Rudolph Valentino and Ramon Novarro, died at age 88.

Mrs. Ingram died on Tuesday in a Burbank hospital following a prolonged illness.

Border clash

BANGKOK, Dec 25. (AP): United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar was quoted today as saying he will encourage negotiated settlement of recent border clashes between Thailand and Laos.

The official Laotian news agency KPL, monitored in Bangkok, said Laos' permanent representative to the United Nations, Kithong Vongxay, met Perez De Cuellar on Tuesday and told him of "the gravity of the situation."

10 detained

BEIJING, Dec 25. (AP): The manager of a construction firm and nine other people have been arrested for paying bribes totalling 200,000 yuan (\$54,000) to government officials, a state-run daily said today.

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US seamen on the US frigate Elrod display a Merry Christmas placard and wave to reporters flying aboard a helicopter in the Gulf. (Reuters radiophoto)

Muted Christmas in Bethlehem

More than 1,000 Palestinians

(Continued from Page 1)

Two television crews were ordered out of Nablus itself by Army officers after they headed for the site of a potential incident when youths started to burn tyres, witnesses said.

A photographer said security forces built a high earth wall sealing off the Nuseiariat refugee camp south of Gaza city and residents said soldiers stopped them leaving for work.

Massive riot police forces assembled in Arab east Jerusalem to prevent disturbances after Friday prayers but services at Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, ended without incident.

Trials of recently-arrested Palestinians began yesterday in the Gaza Strip with sentences of up to a year's imprisonment imposed on 85 to 90 accused, lawyers said.

Only about one-third of the normal number of pilgrims came to Bethlehem today as Israeli troops eased security on a Christmas Day described by residents as the quietest and saddest in memory.

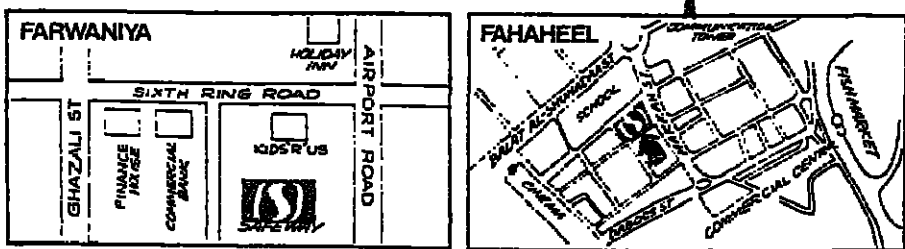
"There's never been a Christmas with so few people. It is because of the rain but also because of the violence," said an aide to Mayor Elias Freij.

Tourism officials estimated that no more than 3,000 visitors

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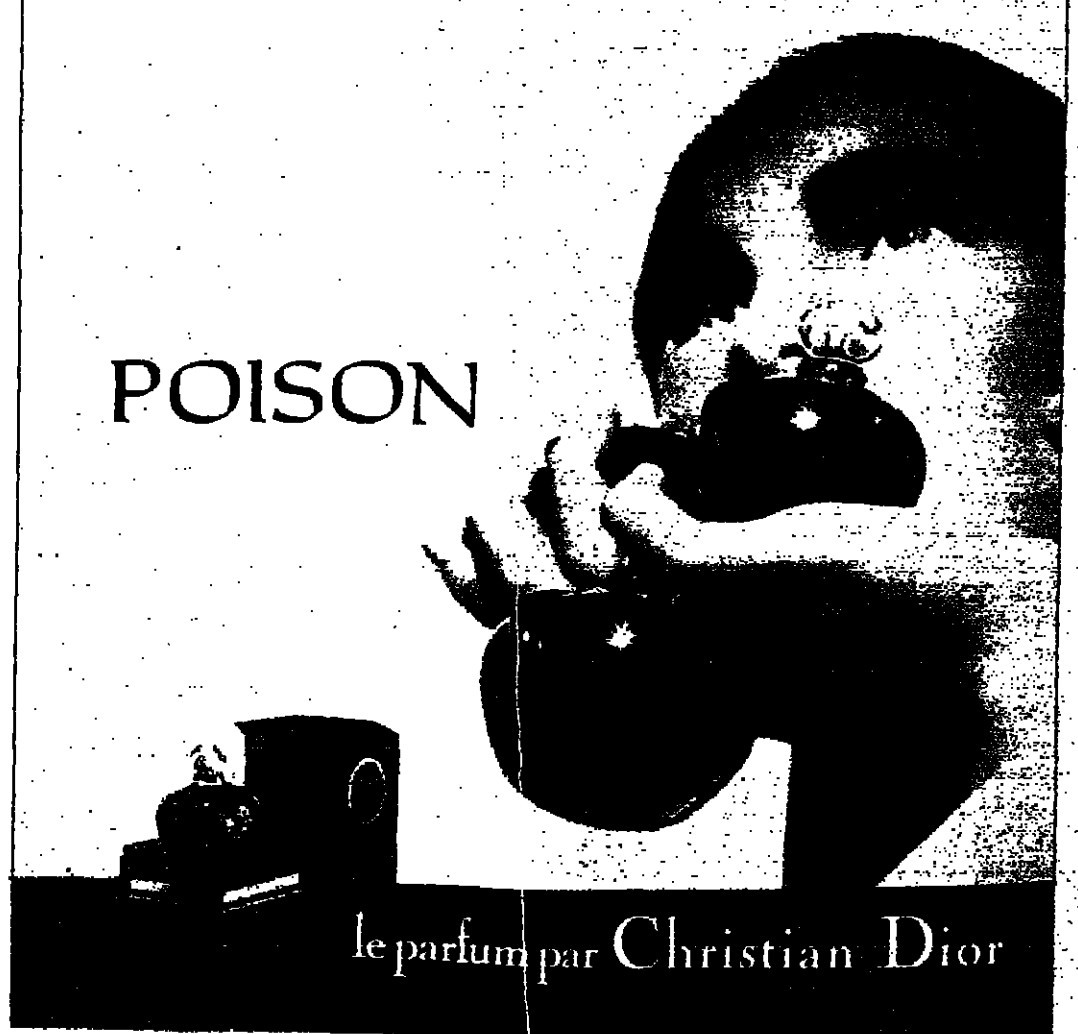
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Walter Hudson, 42, talks to the press in his home in Hempstead, New York, after shedding about 375 pounds (160 kg) of the roughly 1,250 pounds (566 kg) that made him a prisoner in his own bedroom. He got rid of the weight in three months and stepped into the living room unassisted for the first time in 16 years. (Reuter radiophoto)

Government jurisdiction dispute settled

Khomeini gives new powers to Musavi

ATHENS, Dec 25, (UPI): Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini has settled a dispute of jurisdiction in the Iranian government, giving new powers to the executive branch.

The Tehran newspaper Kayhan said Khomeini decreed the government of Prime Minister Mir Hossein Musavi could change, without reference to Parliament, regulations on public utilities and some financial and economic institutions.

They included water, electricity, telephones, shipping, banking and labour organisations.

Tehran residents reached by telephone said the government recently introduced new labour regulations without receiving approval of the Majlis, or Parliament.

A Tehran resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Khomeini's latest move gave new powers to Musavi's government, which had felt inhibited by restrictions imposed on it by the legislature.

Khomeini Tuesday stepped in to settle a dispute between the state radio and television organisation and conservative clerics, lifting "religious impediments" on the broadcast of foreign films and "some songs" in Iran.

Tehran residents said the lifting of the restrictions has not immediately resulted in a change of television programming, and culture-starved Iranians who turned on their television sets Wednesday expecting broadcasts of popular songs were disappointed.

after toppling the late Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Tehran residents said they must tune in to foreign radios to listen to songs by old favourites, many of whom are living in self-imposed exile and still producing songs.

But Western diplomats said Khomeini showed he had mellowed somewhat Tuesday when he lifted the ban on "some songs" on state broadcast media. When he came to power in 1979 he declared all music "sinful," the diplomats said.

Powers

The Council of Guardians of the Constitution, a sort of 12-man senate, objected to the move and complained to Khomeini in a letter.

In a reply published Thursday, Khomeini approved the government move, noting it had the right to change old regulations for public utilities and certain financial and economic institutions, "bringing them in line with Islam."

"We didn't expect them to start broadcasting songs by Gougoush and Heydeh immediately, but we thought we would see some change," one Iranian reached by telephone said. "All we got was the usual martial music and revolutionary songs."

Gougoush and Heydeh were popular Iranian singers whose songs have been banned from the state radio and television since Khomeini came to power in 1979.

Surprise

Thursday, the diplomats and Iran watchers expressed surprise at Khomeini's unexpected return to the public arena. Last week he was reported to be seriously ailing, and some reports said a team of doctors were en route to Iran to treat him.

The need for "guidance" arose after Hashemi, a brother of Parliament Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, came under criticism from religious circles for broadcasting a domestically-made serial showing women without head coverings, Tehran residents said.

Khomeini said such fare was not only without "religious impediments," but also "instructive."

Madonna's secret project

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (Reuter): Madonna, the pop superstar who boasted of being a "material girl" in one of her hit songs, is secretly working on a low-budget film for what must seem like a pittance, film industry sources said.

The 29-year-old singer, who earned an estimated \$26 million in 1987 and is estimated to have a personal fortune of well over \$100 million dollars, is being paid \$379 a day shooting Bloodhounds of Broadway in New Jersey.

The film, set in the depression era, is an adaptation of short stories by the late Damon Runyon, the New York writer and journalist best known for Guys and Dolls and Little Miss Marker.

The whole project has been shrouded in secrecy for security reasons as it was feared a leak would result in Madonna being mobbed by her fans.

Asian press still under pressure

LONDON, Dec 25, (AP): The "World Press Freedom" survey cited cases of government pressure, expulsions and murder among hazards for reporters in some Asian countries.

In Bangladesh, the government banned a major opposition newspaper, Banglar Bani, for printing what it called "false and prejudicial reports" after violent demonstrations in the capital, Dhaka. Journalists working for the English-language Bangladesh Observer said authorities advised them not to publish news or photos of police violence. One BBC correspondent was detained and another expelled from Dhaka. All BBC activities were also stopped.

When students rioted in Rangoon, Burma, the government closed all places of education indefinitely. The newspapers, all government controlled, "informed the public that the students' annual holidays had been brought forward."

Liu Binyan, China's best-known journalist whose hard-hitting articles in the People's Daily had won him enemies in high places, was denounced and expelled from the party.

American journalist Lawrence MacDonald, who worked for the French news agency France Press, was expelled after he reported student demonstrations. Japanese journalist Shuitsu Henmi was also expelled.

Conflict

Indian newspapers and magazines, in their search for a more self-assertive editorial role, are running into conflict with the authorities at various levels. The press was in the front line reporting political controversies and corruption stories surrounding arms purchases abroad.

Government-in-exile not yet: Arafat

TUNIS, Dec 25, (AP): PLO leader Yasser Arafat said last night that the question of the eventual composition of a Palestinian government-in-exile was considered during a recent meeting of the PLO's executive committee but no decision was reached.

Such an initiative requires "a thorough examination and in depth consultations among the Palestinians, Arabs and our friends," Arafat told a press conference in the suburbs of the Tunisian capital.

"I have asked the PLO's legal commission to study the question from every point of view," he said, without specifying a date for the completion of the commission's deliberations.

Uprising

Debates on a government-in-exile have been held in the past and any final decision on these matters rests with the Palestinian National Council, the parliament-in-exile, according to PLO sources.

Arafat praised the "heroic" uprising by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. He said the uprising demonstrates "the undying will of the Palestinian people to recover their rights to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their own land."

Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday reacted cautiously to reports the PLO might form a government-in-exile.

"I don't know what (Palestinian leaders) in Tunis are thinking," said Mustafa Natshe, former Mayor of Hebron. "But if they find this is a good step to achieve a peaceful settlement, I welcome it."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir scoffed at the idea. "It's just a figment of their wil imaginations," Shamir said on Israel television.

Currently the PLO is an umbrella organisation for several independent groups waging warfare against Israel. The largest is the Fatah organisation, headed by Yasser Arafat.

West Bank Palestinian leaders said it was not the first time the idea of a government-in-exile has been raised. But they said PLO leaders are divided over it.

23 die as heavy rains sweep Egypt

CAIRO, Dec 25, (Reuter): Twenty-three people, including 20 footballers and an Israeli woman tourist, have died in accidents caused by rainstorms sweeping Egypt, police said on Thursday.

The soccer players drowned when their bus plunged into a canal as they were returning to their Nile Delta home from a training session.

The bus was carrying 23 people, including 20 footballers and an Israeli woman tourist, who was killed when a bus skidded on a muddy Cairo street and hit them, an Israeli Embassy spokesman said.

At a level crossing 30 km south of Cairo a woman was killed and 36 people were injured when a bus carrying 50 was hit by a train, police said.

Afghan rebels vow to defend Khost

ISLAMABAD, Dec 25, (AP): An Afghan guerrilla leader conceded today that Soviet and Afghan soldiers had advanced toward the besieged city of Khost but dismissed Soviet claim of 1,500 guerrilla casualties.

"We accept that they advanced a few kilometres, about 10 to 15 kilometres from their former positions," Younis Khalis said in a telephone interview conducted in Persian from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar. He denied Soviet reports of having come to within 40 kilometres of Khost.

Siege

Khalis, leader of the seven-party Afghan opposition alliance, said the advance occurred only "because we cannot destroy all their tanks and planes all at once."

He added, however, that the number of Muslim fighters, or Mujahedeen participating in the battle for Khost was increasing. "We are certain that the Muslims, who have been sent by

the Russians to fight, will surrender and the Russians will again be defeated."

He said with the present 20,000 Soviet and Kabul forces fighting in the Khost area near the Pakistani border, there was no hope of breaking the siege unless more troops were brought in.

Khalis dismissed the claim made in Moscow on Wednesday by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov that 1,500 Mujahedeen had been killed or wounded in the first two days of a major offensive.

He said about 40 Mujahedeen and civilians had been "martyred." The guerrillas destroyed 11 planes, including two helicopters, and 60 tanks over the past month. Forty enemy troops had also surrendered, he added.

Meanwhile Afghan leader Najibullah left New Delhi for Kampuchea today after talks with senior Indian leaders that focussed on a proposed Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka violence claims 19 lives

COLOMBO, Dec 25, (Reuter): At least 19 people were killed in ethnic violence in Sri Lanka's north and east in the past two days, military sources said on Thursday.

They said three Sri Lankan soldiers died and several were wounded in a clash with Tamil separatist rebels on Thursday in the eastern village of Trikonamadu. No further details were immediately available on the incident.

Ten fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group were shot dead in a battle with Indian troops on Wednesday at Urumparai in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

Among those killed were five women who were fighting alongside their male comrades, the sources said.

Search

The clash flared when the Indian soldiers mounted a search operation. Some arms and ammunition were seized from a rebel hideout.

About 35,000 Indian troops have been deployed in the north

and east of the Indian Ocean island to hunt down and disarm the Tigers, who have repudiated a peace pact signed by Sri Lanka and India in July to end a Tamil rebellion.

The sources said the bullet-riddled bodies of six fishermen were found in the jungles of Morawewa in the east on Wednesday. The men, five Sinhalese and one Tamil, had been abducted by Tamil rebels the previous day.

Police said inquiries had revealed that at least three men were involved in the killing of the Sri Lankan ruling party chairman and three others in Colombo on Wednesday.

The assailants, suspected of belonging to a Marxist Sinhalese rebel group, escaped after gunning down the United National Party official, Harsha Abeywardene, while he was travelling to work in his car.

Abeywardene's bodyguard, his driver and a servant were also killed when the attackers, said to be members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP People's Liberation Front), opened fire at close range.

Christmas fails to bring joy to Filipinos

MANILA, Dec 25, (Reuter): Relatives of the dead in history's worst peacetime sea tragedy spent Christmas day in a Philippine morgue.

A quarrel erupted on Christmas Eve in Manila's Funeraria popular funeral parlour when two families claimed the disfigured body of a woman.

"She is mine and I will fight anyone in court who says she isn't mine," Adriano Jordan, a 38-year-old farmer, said today as he waited to claim the heavily burned body of a woman he said was his wife.

"I've been working here for 31 years and this is the blackest Christmas Day I have seen," said a parlour employee.

Out of 2,000 people feared to have died when the ferry Dona Paz and a tanker sank after

colliding off Mindoro island last Sunday, only 253 bodies have been recovered.

Except for 20, the rest were too badly charred or mutilated to be easily identified.

Rescue ships today scoured the waters for more bodies.

Survivors alleged that only an apprentice was on the ferry's bridge at the time of the disaster, a charge denied by the shipowners, who accused the tanker of ramming their ship. An inquiry starts on Monday.

Revelries marked Christmas elsewhere around the country. Filipinos exploded firecrackers on Christmas eve, swarmed to night clubs and danced till dawn, or held family reunions, laying sumptuous feasts on their tables, after midnight masses.

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8th GCC summit opens today



HH the Amir

THE 8th summit conference of the supreme Gulf Cooperation Council member-state leaders opens in Riyadh today.

The earlier seven GCC summit conferences were held consecutively in the following Gulf capitals: Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Manama, Doha, Kuwait, Muscat and Abu Dhabi. This is the second summit conference to be held in Riyadh since the GCC's inception in 1981.

According to the prelude of the working paper ratified during the holding of the first GCC session on 26-5-1981, the emergence of the GCC came in recognition of the historical, social, cultural, economic, political and strategic stage through which the Arabian Gulf region passed or will continue to pass through in the future, and this is presently much more demanding than any time before and in favour of the public interests of the people of the region.

Solidarity

Arab solidarity which binds Arab states with the Gulf is worth being demonstrated in a mutual framework, following all positive, efficient, bilateral and collective steps carried out till present, and which should more



Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan

preferably and clearly underline the interests of the people of the region.

Over the past seven years, the GCC's achievements made the council worthy of confidence as to the attainment of its objectives at all Gulf, Arab or international levels.

Goal

The emergency of the GCC which was called for by Gulf leaders amid a phase of dangerous, continuous and very critical developments was not a mere coincidence. Though the upcoming eighth GCC session in Riyadh follows the extraordinary Arab summit conference convened in Amman last November, the resolutions, recommendations and steps expected to be taken by the GCC supreme council will be integrative to those of the Arab summit and demonstrative of growing tenacity among all Arab states.

Discussions during the GCC meeting held at foreign ministerial level in Riyadh last week, focussed on issues on the agenda, which will be referred as resolutions and recommendations related to political, economic or other matters of concern, to the



Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad

GCC supreme council for further discussion and ratification.

Fortunately the GCC ministerial council meeting had all elements of agreement and efficiency, according to the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal added that the GCC's basic goal was always to bring the Iraq-Iran war, raging since September 1980, to an end, and all its resolutions are aimed in this direction.

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who returned home after attending the GCC ministerial meeting in Riyadh, called for more serious and continuous work for surpassing this stage and achieving the aspirations and hopes of the GCC people.

He expressed hope that the upcoming GCC summit conference in Riyadh would be a success, and that the Gulf leaders would propel the council towards wider horizons of inter-Gulf cooperation.

The 8th GCC summit in Riyadh will be attended by HH the Amir of Kuwait, the UAE President Sheikh Zayed, the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Sultan



Sultan Qaboos

Qaboos of Oman, the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Destiny

Indeed the 8th Gulf summit is the object on which people of the area pin hopes of success in realising targets and avoiding crises and shortcomings of the deterioration of Gulf security as a result of the dangerous and continuous escalation of the Iraq-Iran war as well as implications of events of Arab solidarity during the last few years.

This should urge the GCC to initiate the prerogatives which would lead to bolstering Arab solidarity needed for confronting defiance and perils threatening the Arab destiny at all levels.

Topic

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Bin Hamoud Al Subhi, the secretary-general of the higher committee for conferences affairs, reiterated that the security and stability problem in the Gulf region would be the most important topic to be discussed by the heads of the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council when they meet in Riyadh from today.

In an interview with "Oman" Arabic daily, Subhi added that the meeting will be held at a



Sheikh Issa Bin Salman

critical political situation in the region due to the recent developments in the Gulf.

He said the supreme council will also discuss continuing negotiations with the aggrieved parties in the Iran-Iraq war, especially with the former. He explained the sultanate's active role in negotiations with Iraq and Iran to stop the war. Oman-Syria recent contacts came to crown the prominent and distinguished role played by Sultan Qaboos during Amman summit, he added.

Subhi said that the Riyadh summit will also work to strengthen the accord reached between the Arab leaders at the Amman summit.

"Security strategy discussed by the ministers of interior and development of the military cooperation will also come under discussion during the summit," Subhi said.

Speaking of the higher committee for conferences he said the committee under the chairmanship of Sayyid Fahd Bin Mahmood Al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, includes nine ministers and the secretary-general of the council of ministers. The committee, he added, coordinates the sultanate's participation and role in international and GCC conferences and meetings.

In Abu Dhabi, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan received a report on the



King Fahd

outcome of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC.

The report also includes the agenda of the GCC summit due to start today in Riyadh.

The report was presented by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Rashid Abdullah during a meeting with Sheikh Zayed at the presidential court here.

Information centre

The Amir of the Riyadh region Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz on Thursday paid a visit to Kuna's offices at the information centre of the Saudi Information Ministry, designed to cover events of the eighth summit for GCC leaders.

Prince Salman met with Kuna's mission members and expressed his readiness to eliminate any difficulties that might confront them while performing their press duties.

Amir of Riyadh also inspected the remaining sections of the centre, including radio photos gadgets, fax machines, duplex lines and hotlines which link Gulf news agencies with the main headquarters in their respective countries.

Later, GCC Secretary General Abdulla Ya'qoub Bishara visited the Kuna mission and got acquainted with the equipment inside the centre.

Bishara said that the GCC general secretariat is ready to surmount all the difficulties and face newsmen to its duties to the utmost.

Crash pilot rescued from sea

MANAMA, Dec 25, (AP): A British pilot on a London-to-Sydney flight crashed his microlight aircraft into the Gulf today but was rescued unharmed, according to an employee of the company that plucked him from the water.

Brian Melton, 45, crashed at about 12:05 p.m. local time (0805 GMT) when the engine on his tiny plane died while he was at about 2,000 feet, said Robert Zuzarte of Abu Dhabi Aviation. "Once he got it into the water... he put out a Mayday call on the emergency frequency. There was an aircraft passing, and they located him. We went out in a helicopter and picked him up," then brought him back to nearby Abu Dhabi, Zuzarte said by telephone from the neighbouring Gulf state of the United Arab Emirates.

Repairs

He said the Abu Dhabi Air Force returned the pilot to the site of the crash, in the waters near the Zakum oil complex, and that Melton planned to try to dismantle the plane so it could be removed from the water and brought to shore for repairs.

He said Melton spent "about 20 minutes" in the water and was not injured in the crash, which interrupted the leg of his flight that started in Dhahran, in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia.

Zuzarte also said the pilot plans to carry on with his flight, which began Dec 7 in London to mark the bicentennial of British settlement in Australia.

Salvage company officials in the Gulf area heard a distress signal at about noon, and it was originally interpreted as a possible Iranian attack on a merchant ship, a common occurrence in the southern Gulf.

Furnishing allowance under study

ABDUL Hameed Hussein, Assistant Undersecretary for Services Affairs and Government Property at Kuwait's Finance Ministry, said that the ministry was studying the possibility of offering a furnishing allowance for government employees who have government housing.

He said that the new plan, would go into effect at the beginning of the 1988-1989 fiscal year in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission.

Military cooperation between GCC states

RIYADH, Dec 25, (Kuna): The concept of military cooperation between member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council relies on the collective defence, coordination and cooperation within the framework of the Islamic religion, the joint national and regional interests. Major General Youssef Ibrahim Al Saloom, commander of Madina region, said here yesterday.

He made these observations in a comprehensive analysis entitled "Military Cooperation Between the GCC States," made available to the Saudi Press Agency, on the eve of the eighth GCC summit due to start its deliberations in Riyadh on Saturday. "Military cooperation means the establishment of links between forces in the fields of training, military operations, organisation, armament, supply, equipment and exchange of visits and scholars in order to transfer technology and technical know-how."

Saloom said military cooperation between world states had taken many spheres such as Nato and Warsaw Pacts, the Joint Arab Defence Treaty, the international peace forces of the United Nations and other alliances.

Unique

He said the GCC states military cooperation is a unique experiment in view of the region's strategies, cultural, social, economic, political and religious bonds which link them.

The idea of military cooperation between GCC members had crystallised after the first meeting of GCC leaders in Abu Dhabi in April, 1981 when the six heads of state signed the basic statute of the council and confirmed that the security and stability of the Gulf region is the sole responsibility of its peoples and states.

After this meeting, military departments, in each member state began to think over the steps which should be taken to solidify this cooperation and military experts and strategists began series of meetings, Saloom said.

These meetings led to the convening of the first meeting of GCC defence ministers in Riyadh on Jan 25, 1982 to define priorities in the field of defence, aloum added.

One of the most distinguished meetings in this effect had been a joint meeting of GCC foreign and defence ministers to achieve some sort of coordination between military and foreign policies.

During this meeting, the participants had come out with the joint defence paper, which had once again confirmed that the security and stability of the region is the sole responsibility of the region's states.

This joint defence paper is the principal document, which defines member states' methods and strategies of defence and highlights ways of promoting the military cooperation, Major General Al Saloom said.

Symposium on aviation safety

KHALIFA Al Nasar, from the Aviation Safety Department of Kuwait's Civil Aviation Authority, said that steady progress is being made in the development of aviation programmes in Kuwait and their integration with related areas.

In a symposium held by the Kuwaiti Pilots and Aviation

Al Saloom said this military policy had culminated in several accomplishments including the formation of a military committee at the GCC general secretariat to follow up military coordination and cooperation between member states.

It also led to the formation of working teams and groups to study in depth military issues in the region.

One of the glaring achievement has been the formation of Dira Al Jazira (the Island's Shield) force which is considered a rapid deployment force.

Major General Al Saloom said other accomplishments are exchange of military missions and expertise, conducting of the joint military training programmes and manoeuvres, diversification of armament sources to secure continuity of arms flow, studying prospects of establishing joint military industries and providing military and financial assistances to some member states whenever necessary in line with a resolution of the supreme council.

Objectives

Referring to the strategic objectives of the military cooperation, he said they are based on the following principles:

- Adoption of the principle of collective defence as a method of joint work.
- Adoption of the policy of self-dependence and delegation of the task of defence and freedom to sons of member states.
- Rejection of foreign intervention in the region in all its forms.
- Adoption of a strategy to link the pan-Arab security to the Gulf security and the pan-Arab cooperation the Gulf Cooperation.

Deeper

Major General Al Saloom affirmed that the real measure of success for any military cooperation depended on linking objectives to achievements.

"It has become clear to all of us that elements of the military cooperation objectives have been realised during the last seven years," he said.

He added that the GCC defence ministers conference held in Abu Dhabi on September 21, 1987, laid the foundation of a new and collective work in the field of military defence at this stage of the GCC's development.

"Moreover, the conference decided to deepen military cooperation, strengthen bases of integration and increase coordination between member states in order to face collectively any threats to the security of the Gulf citizens and their countries," he said.

Major General Al Saloom said the conference had underlined the necessity of deepening defence links as soon as possible on the basis of the GCC joint defence strategy's objectives.

Engineers Society, Al Nasar explained some of the duties of the Aviation Safety Department, saying that the department follows up on investigating accidents and their causes and is responsible for the ongoing technical supervision and maintenance of safety procedures for Kuwait registered airplanes.

Sheikh Ali opens Charity Week



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali (centre) and International Islamic Charity Authority officials are pictured at the opening celebration of Charity Week.

CHARITY Week celebrations, sponsored by the International Islamic Charity Authority, was opened on Thursday by Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem. The celebration opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran and was followed by a speech given by the ICCA Chairman Youssef Al Hajji in which he said that the people of Kuwait are known for their charitable projects and the authority

showed its confidence in Kuwait by establishing its international headquarters here.

Al Hajji said that millions of Muslims suffer from poverty, disease and ignorance and that Islamic minorities in many countries also face political, social and economic oppression. He explained that 59 charity projects in 13 countries were carried out by the authority which included

such activities as the construction of mosques, schools, hospitals and agricultural works at an approximate cost of \$8.5 million.

Dr Khaled Al Madhkour from Kuwait University's Faculty of Sharia, speaking at the opening celebration, said that Islam encouraged Muslims to spend their money on charitable organisations and projects to help the needy.

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Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

هكذا من الأمل

Health Ministry's new rationalisation policy

Hospitals suffer from medicine shortage

A NUMBER of officials at hospitals and health centres have said there was a shortage of medicines after implementation of the rationalisation policy at the Health Ministry. They said that cutting of the budget, especially for treatment, had negatively affected the amount of medicine available.

They also said that the health registration system had not yet been implemented at the ministry, and this enabled people to take the same medicine from more than one centre. This was done by a large number of patients.

Health Ministry doctors said that patients were asked to go to private pharmacies to buy medicines that were not available at government pharmacies. They said that antibiotics and other prescribed medicines were distributed to hospitals in small amounts and supplies were exhausted quickly.

Pharmacists said that medical stores suffered from a shortage of some medicines, and pharmacies

could not order larger quantities of medicine although the amount available was exhausted before fresh supplies were provided.

The director of Jahra Hospital, Dr Abdul Raouf Al Jawhari, said a shortage of medicine was found after the end of each year.

He said that many patients kept visiting health complexes and clinics and took vast amounts of medicine. This was a good proof of lack of health awareness, some patients thinking they should collect the largest possible amount of medicine because there was no charge. This was unfair to other patients and caused a shortage in some medicines.

Dr Al Jawhari said the solution was to increase health awareness with the participation of other authorities and departments, and also to restore the health registration system.

He said that charging patients for medicine was the only way to stop them collecting more amounts of medicines.

He called on the ministry to give clinic doctors complete freedom with regard to medicines. Sometimes doctors have to prescribe substitute medicines and this is the right thing to do because the medicines have the same effect.

Dealing with many pharmaceutical companies resulted in a bigger variety of medicines, he said.

The director of Ibn Sina Hospital, Dr Rashed Hamad Al Roshoud, said that shortage of medicines, especially at hospitals, would affect health services negatively, especially in the case of patients with serious illnesses.

There is a heavier demand for medicine before the summer vacation because travellers want to obtain sufficient medicine to last the whole holiday, especially for dangerous illnesses.

He said that the hospital obtained the medicines of many international companies and they had different brand names for the same medicine and this confused some patients who

thought they were being given different medicines.

He urged patients not to restrict themselves to a specific medicine because it may not be available sometimes and manufacturers were changing continuously.

Halved

The deputy director of external services, Dr Jamal Othman, said each health centre was given sufficient medicine for two weeks, but had the right to ask for a different quantity. Some doctors prescribed one type of medicine, causing the supply to be exhausted quicker.

He said the quantities distributed by the medical stores department depended on the area's population and the number of daily patients. Smaller quantities of some medicines were distributed, in line with the ministry's rationalisation policy.

Formerly patients with serious illnesses were given medicines sufficient for three months, but they are now given sufficient medicine for one month only.

A pharmacist, Mohammed Salah, said that the distribution of medicines had been halved, and pharmacies were now suffering from a shortage in medicines.

He said that nobody can deny this, and something should be done to remedy the situation.

The assistant undersecretary for administrative affairs at the Health Ministry, Ibrahim Al Modaf, admitted there was a shortage in the strategic storage of medicines due to the ministry's new rationalisation policy, the increase in patients, and expansion of health services.

He said the ministry had requested the Finance Ministry to allocate an additional amount to cover the shortage and it had responded positively.

He said the ministry was very careful when choosing strong medicines and medicines for heart, diabetes and hormone diseases. It also took care to ensure that such medicines needed for particular illnesses were given under direct medical supervision, he said.

A festive mood on Christmas Day

Thousands throng the church

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THOUSANDS of Christians thronged the church yesterday to celebrate Christmas.

The festive mood of the people was evident from the colourful clothes and latest fashions they wore.

Generosity is the spirit of this holiday season and exchanging gifts is common. Toyshops, confectionery shops and bookshops were full of people buying gifts during the last week. But purchases have been affected by the increase in prices, according to some people.



People trying to enter the Catholic Church to pray (above) while others gather at a garden nearby to meet friends (below). (Photos by Mohd. Bedaq)

The manager of a patisserie said the sale of his products had risen by 100 per cent during the season. "We are active during this time of year, remaining open for 24 hours a day to cater to the needs of people, specially foreigners", he said.

Soared

A housewife, said that prices soared at this time of the year because shopkeepers were tempted to increase their profits by raising prices. She said that prices had increased every year for the past five years.

The price of postcards has gone up by 50 per cent and clothes by 100 per cent, and even patisserie shops raised their prices, she said, adding, it was very difficult for her to afford such prices in Salmiya during this season and bought her needs one month in advance. A decoration cost KD 2 in Salmiya but the same item was only 500 fils in the city, she said.



tions were also much cheaper in supermarkets. A parcel clerk at Hawalli post office said there had been a rush of people sending cards and parcels before the New Year.

Rush

An expatriate who has been in Kuwait for eight years said toy prices had hit a record.

In Salmiya, toys cost double than in cooperative supermarkets, she said. Cards and decorations were also much cheaper in supermarkets.

Research on manpower

A RESEARCH on manpower will be conducted during March on a sample basis, the assistant undersecretary for statistics at the Planning Ministry, Mubassir Al Otaibi, said on Thursday.

He said the research was of great social and economic value in estimating the population of citizens and expatriates in the light of the 1985-90 five year plan.

Interior Ministry's new projects

LT COL Mohammad Hassan Salem, the Director of the Building and Construction Department of Kuwait's Ministry of Interior, said that several projects were planned for the ministry in cooperation with the Public Works, Planning and Municipality Ministries. He added that the ministry budget for these projects for the fiscal year 1986 to 1987 reached KD 2.5 million and that the same amount had been approved for 1987 to 1988.

He said that among the projects planned were the Al Rabiya, Al Fintas and Al Qurain Police Stations. The director added that the new ministry had progressed well in spite of some problems. He said that the new police society building will be located near the Sixth Ring Road and the Capital Governorate building.

\$1.5m aid for West Bank students

DAWOOD Mubassir Al Saleh, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Organisation for Aid to Arab Students in Kuwait, said that the organisation gave a total of \$1.5 million in support of the scientific movement in the West Bank and Gaza strip over the past nine years.

He said that the Board of Trustees had approved a programme of aid to students studying scientific skills in universities and institutes in the area as part of a 10-year plan to develop manpower resources and train specialists in applied sciences.

He explained that about 2,042 students received benefits from the organisation aid programme during the period of 1979-1987, with 252 students studying at Gaza Islamic University, 314 students at Beerzeit University and 176 students at Jerusalem University.

14 accidents

THERE were 14 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday.

Six accidents took place in the Capital, one in Hawalli, six in Ahmadi and one in Jahra.

Bishara calls for increased world efforts to end Gulf war

LONDON, Dec 25, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Abdullah Yacoub Bishara called for increased and intensive world efforts to end the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

In a statement to the Arabic-language Al Tadammun magazine, appearing here on Saturday, Bishara asserted the importance of warning against potential dangers of the Gulf war either by citing UN resolutions or within regional blocs.

The Arab-Gulf unified stance toward this war and the continuous international efforts would help end this war which has a harmful reflection on the political, economic and strategic levels, he added.

Bishara denied any comparison between the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict because, he said, the first is a generation-long conflict and the second can be resolved.

On the role of Egypt after GCC states restored relations with Cairo, Bishara said Egypt represents a real political and diplomatic depth for GCC's exerted efforts to effect ceasefire between the two warring countries.



Aparna Sen Warm reception impresses Aparna

INDIAN actress-turned-director Aparna Sen is very impressed that "someone in Kuwait saw to it and organised an Indian film festival."

Aparna Sen, who was in Kuwait to take part in the festival, was carried away by the "warm reception" she received from the organisers, Cine Club, and the Indians, particularly the Bengali community in Kuwait.

Aparna Sen, who has acted in several Bengali and Hindi films, has become more well-known for the two films she has directed - "36 Chowringhee Lane" and "Paroma", both critically acclaimed by the Indian media. Both the films were shown last week during the festival.

She was visibly upset about cutting "important scenes" from "Paroma" for showing in Kuwait. "This did not show the development of the emotional involvement of Paroma," she said. She was also displeased by the "faulty soundtrack" which spoiled viewing.

Aparna Sen, director of "Paroma" and actress Gita Sen, last night, attended a reception hosted in their honour by the Bengali Cultural Society. It was attended by a large number of people.

Aparna Sen leaves for India tonight.

An interview with Aparna Sen will be published in tomorrow's Arab Times.

Seven years jail for raping maid

KUWAIT'S Higher Court of Appeal upheld the sentence of seven-years hard labour in the case of a man found guilty of raping his maid.

In testimony given in court it was cited that the employer, after making advances at the maid, struck her and forced her into the bedroom where he raped her.

The Criminal Court found the man guilty which was upheld by the appeal court, which also added a KD 300 fine for suspension of sentence enforcement.

In another case, Kuwait's Criminal Court sentenced a Corporal at the Interior Ministry to two years and four months imprisonment after finding him guilty of forging official papers.

The defendant claimed that he had been admitted to Jahra Hospital in an attempt to receive 13 days medical leave. Further investigation showed that the man had never been admitted in the hospital and the medical record authorisation stamp was no longer used by the doctor who the man claimed had issued the report.

The court sentenced the defendant to three years hard labour which was reduced to two years, four months by the Appeal Court.

Oman-Jordan seek to boost ties

AMMAN, Dec 25, (Kuna): Jordan's Minister of Industry and Trade Raja'y Al Ma'shar received yesterday Oman's ambassador here Bashir Bin Salim Bin Farag who delivered to him a message from Oman's Minister of Commerce and Industry Salim Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali, dealing with the joint Omani-Jordanian committee.



● A Bangladeshi cultural organisation in Kuwait, Nirjhar Sankshrit Goshthi, yesterday organised a discussion and a cultural show to mark the Victory Day of Bangladesh. The ceremony was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Picture shows some of the participants taking part in a musical soiree. (Photo by Ahmed Barlooni)

REQUIRED

Kuwait's leading Motor Distributors require for their Passenger Car division the following personnel:

1. SERVICE RECEPTION ENGINEERS

Sound technical knowledge of passenger car & light-heavy commercial vehicles. To act as liaison between service customers and garage to promote labour and parts sales. A minimum of 4 years apprenticeship in a reputed service garage is essential

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To manage and operate fully equipped large panel & paint shop. Should be a talented professional who will thrive in a fast paced dynamic environment. Will be responsible to increase retail customer business for panel & paint shop, and co-ordinate with insurance companies to increase insurance paid accident repair work. Must be profit motivated and able to develop good customer relations and knowledge of normal administration including independent office routine, cost control and preparation of budgets essential.

The above positions require fluency in Arabic and English with a minimum of three years post-apprenticeship experience in similar capacity with major vehicle importers in the Gulf region and transferable residence permits.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

YOU must be poor to know the luxury of giving —
George Eliot, English novelist (1819-1880).

Italy breaks arms ring

By Stephen R. Wilson

ROME, (AP): Italian magistrates say they have broken an illegal international arms ring that delivered Italian-made weapons to Iran and involved Sicilian Mafia and European middlemen.

At least 32 people, including a leading Italian industrialist, were arrested over the weekend in what Italian media have dubbed 'Italy's Irangate scandal.' No government officials have been implicated.

Thirteen other people, including a mysterious arms trader who left a briefcase full of incriminating documents in a hotel room, are still being sought.

Authorities say the affair, which one newspaper reported involved a plot to assassinate US President Ronald Reagan in Venice last June, will have wide repercussions throughout Europe.

"Our work is only at the beginning," prosecutor Augusto Lama said. "We are investigating along several directions. We will turn half of Europe upside down."

According to Lama and other investigating magistrates, the operation involved delivery of weapons from Italy to Iran via Syria, and the shipment of drugs and weapons to Italy for use by the Mafia and Middle East gunmen.

Italian military sales to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and other countries are banned.

The affair comes at a time when Italy is preparing to send Navy ships to the Gulf to escort Italian merchant vessels and hunt mines allegedly planted by Iran.

Details of the operation began emerging after the seizure of a Lebanese cargo ship, Boustanty 1, off the coast of Bari in southern Italy.

Police said the vessel was carrying an American-made anti-helicopter missile, a Soviet-made grenade launcher, an anti-tank bazooka, as well as two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of heroin

and 15 kilos (33 pounds) of hashish.

All 17 people aboard the ship, including the Lebanese captain, were arrested.

The magistrates said the arms apparently were destined for Middle East groups operating in Italy and elsewhere in Europe.

Lama said the groups are believed to be linked to Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal, accused of masterminding the attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985.

One of Italy's leading dailies, Rome's La Repubblica, reported Monday that the weapons originally were due to arrive in Italy at the end of May or early June at the time of the summit of seven industrialized nations in Venice.

The unsourced report indicated the arms were apparently to be used to try to shoot down Reagan's helicopter. There has been no official confirmation of the report.

Two reputed Mafia figures from Trapani, Sicily — Felice Corrao and Guido Coduri — were among those arrested over the weekend. Lama said the Mafia was involved in selling drugs, some of whose profits were used to buy more arms as well as to fatten the coffers of both the mob and the terrorists.

Also under arrest is prominent industrialist Ferdinando Borletti, 65-year-old chairman of Valsella Meccanotecnica, an arms manufacturer outside Brescia near Milan. Borletti is also a board member of Fiat and of the business daily Il Sole-24 Ore.

Charged

Borletti and his 33-year-old son Giovanni, director general of the company both charged with violation of arms laws, were interrogated Monday in La Spezia on Italy's northwest coast. The arrest warrant says they sent arms to warring countries in the Middle East, while falsely declaring they were shipped to Nigeria, Turkey and Spain.

According to the magistrates, the mines were later forwarded to Iran.

Suharto guarantees Army political role

By Jeremy Clift

JAKARTA, (Reuters): President Suharto has guaranteed the Army a political role in Indonesia for the foreseeable future, asserting that the participation of the military will not hinder his plans to build democracy.

Mapping out his strategy for the political and economic development of the world's fifth largest nation, Suharto said the armed forces were essential for forging a strong and united country.

Marking the 42nd anniversary of the declaration of independence from Dutch rule after World War II, Suharto said he had succeeded in laying the ideological and political foundation for the future.

With the period neatly dividing into 21 years under the charismatic late President Sukarno, and 21 years under the more pragmatic rule of Suharto, the anniversary is raising questions about the future leadership of the country as a new generation takes over.

Suharto, himself a retired general, said the military was a key element in ensuring stability and building a unified ideology in an archipelago which spans 13,000 islands.

At 66, Suharto appears in good health and has expressed his intention to stand for a fifth five-year term as president next March.

But the jockeying for position has already started for the new cabinet the president will announce in seven months' time.

Indonesia, a country of 170 million people, has adopted a low-profile foreign policy under Suharto, in direct contrast to the flamboyant militancy of Suharno.

But its strategic position commanding the sea lanes between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, along with its large natural resources which include oil, gas, rubber, tin, timber and palm, oil, make it an important country.

For long the sleeping giant of South-East Asia, Indonesia is emerging as one of the newly industrialised nations.

In a speech to parliament, Suharto stressed that Indonesian textiles, chemical products, cement, fertilizers, paper, tyres and steel were beginning to penetrate world markets.

"If formerly the quality and price of our industrial goods were inferior to imported goods, the situation today is very different," he declared.

But along with the industrial development built up with its large oil revenues, demands are being voiced for greater political freedom and a more equitable distribution of wealth in a country where average per capita income is around \$450 a year.

As Indonesia enters its third 21-year cycle, the country's leading financial newspaper, Bisnis Indonesia, said in an editorial it was time for the younger generation to be given greater responsibility and for the old to give up power more quickly.

"We feel concerned that the slow process can create a gap between the two generations, with the young becoming frustrated at not having the opportunity to take responsibility in the national leadership," the newspaper said.

Suharto noted that within the 280,000-strong armed forces the process of promoting younger commanders was almost complete.

Role

He stressed that the military would retain its central role with in the political process.

"History will show in the future the incorrect view that the role of the armed forces is incompatible with stimulating the growth of democracy," Suharto told parliament on Saturday.

At least half the present cabinet are serving or retired officers and the armed forces have a guaranteed 100 seats in the 500-member national assembly.

America has made some amends for its past mistakes

US-Arab relations better, despite hiccups

By Raphael Calls

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): Despite occasional hiccups, there is a clear and steady warming trend in the relationship between Washington and the Arab world. Whether this trend continues depends as much on the Arab world and developments there as it does on the United States.

The unexpected can always thwart good intentions in the Middle East. But the latest resumption of the so-called tanker war in the Gulf is not expected to have a lasting negative effect on the overall improved relationship.

Within the span of less than a year, the Reagan administration has:

- Responded positively to an unprecedented Kuwaiti request and has sent an armada to the Arabian Gulf region to protect US interests, Kuwaiti shipping, and the international waterways of the Gulf along with other countries from both East and West.

- Has just signed a major five-year trade agreement with Iraq.
- And has sent the US ambassador William Eagleton back to

Damascus after an absence of more than ten months.

That is a far cry from less than a year ago when the Iran-Contra affair broke out and sent shock waves across to America's close allies in the Arab world and, in the process, strengthened the hands of its opponents in the region and especially encouraged the Islamic fundamentalists to spread their wings across the Arab world as it was so tragically manifested in the Makkah incidents.

Failures

The Iran-Contra scandal was simply the culmination of a series of American failures in the Middle East that included, among others, America's brief entry and quick and tragic exodus from Lebanon in 1982-83, a series of on-again-off-again bids to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, a major aggression against Libya, and continued rejection to sell arms to strong US allies like Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The current trend must be viewed as a cause-effect relationship in the post Iran-Contra scandal. It is difficult to imagine that the recent moves would have taken place had Irangate

not been so sensationally exposed.

After all, the argument in Washington goes, the US has responded positively and with resolve to Kuwait's request despite congressional objections, has sent more than 20 ships and over 25,000 men to the Gulf to protect vital Arab and Western interests aimed at securing the free flow of oil to the West and the principled freedom of navigation in the international waters of the Gulf — at a cost of over a million dollars a day of the taxpayer's money.

Persuaded

And the administration's advocates justifying point out that despite initial hesitation, and under US prodding, Washington's European allies have been finally persuaded also to join in a multinational effort to protect this international waterway of the Gulf by sending more of their own ships, mine-sweepers, and men.

Furthermore, the Reagan administration — to its credit — has been actively and uncharacteristically involved diplomatically — so far with partial success — in finding a solution to the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war

under the auspices of the United Nations.

Once again, the US was able to turn around the positions of countries like West Germany, Britain, and France that had been opposed to the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 598, let alone succeeding in bringing about the unprecedented unanimity of other council members like the Soviet Union and China.

Have all these measures not been part of the Arab objectives in the current exercise, the administration's advocates in Washington ask?

Questions

The answers to these and other questions are unfortunately not that straightforward — like everything else in the Middle East. Because still lurking in the skeptic Arab mind are several key questions, which only time and American actions will answer:

- First, the damage caused by the Iran-Contra affair goes much beyond the supply of arms to Iran, though this should never be underestimated.

A point unfortunately not stressed enough during the

months of painful congressional hearings on Irangate is that the damage caused by the covert Iran arms supply operation was as much a result of a breach in US principles and moral values as it was one of purely commercial arms supplies to an enemy of the Arabs.

- Second, lurking in the minds of the Arabs and even America's European allies is Washington's "staying power" ability. Will the United States be able to see its mission through to the end? Or will it cut and run at the first sign of trouble or the first loss of a valued American life? The US embroilment in Lebanon and its shameful quick exodus from that war-torn country (for purely domestic electoral considerations at the time) is unfortunately still very vivid in the Arab mind.

- Third, will the US Congress once again undercut the executive branch at the first sign of such trouble with an I-told-you-so logic, forcing the Reagan administration to once again pull back from a vital area of US interests, leaving Gulf allies in the lurch to face Iranian ambitions and aggression and leaving them no option but to turn to the

Soviets for help and support?

- Fourth, will the United States — perhaps again acting under congressional pressure — commit the blunder of "squeezing" its allies in the Gulf region to grant it landing rights, bases, and facilities under the threat of pulling out — a request that is bound to be turned down for domestic and regional considerations which the administration should be very much aware of?

- Or, additionally, will it seize the current opportunity and presence in the Gulf to maintain its naval forces in the region permanently, eventually invading the wrath of Arab moderates and hardliners alike? Or will it withdraw once a comprehensive settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict has been reached and in the process preempt a possible superpower confrontation?

- Fifth, will the United States once again allow itself to be manoeuvred by Iran (as it was in the Iran scandal) or be bullied around by Iranian threats of sabotage, kidnappings, and terrorism or will it stand firm in pursuit of its vital regional and international interests, principles, and declared commitments no matter what the cost?



"PLEASE EXCUSE THE LEFT HAND... MY RIGHT WING IS KILLING ME!"

Problems faced by foreigners to become physicians in US

By Vira Lynn Jones

NEW YORK, (Reuters): At home in Kampuchea, Sidara Hun had nearly finished medical school. As a refugee in America, he may never become a doctor.

He is typical of the thousands of foreign-trained refugee physicians in New York who have left their families, their culture, and their careers.

"Many of the refugee physicians are very depressed and suffer low self-esteem due to the loss of their professional status," said Linda Grenis, coordinator of the health training programmes for the New York Association for New Americans, Inc. (Nyana), a non-profit group that helps refugee doctors and medical students into suitable jobs in this country.

Hun fled to Thailand in 1983, after learning that the pro-Vietnam Phnom Penh government planned to send him to prison camp. He left behind documents that proved he had finished six of the seven years of medical school.

"If I had had them on me at the checkpoint, I would have been arrested — probably tortured to death," he said. "I have no other way to prove I ever attended medical school."

Job

Hun has two choices: start medical studies all over again, or take a job far below his level of professional training.

With the help of the Nyana, he recently completed a year of training and passed an exam to become a laboratory technician. He said he hopes to someday quit that job if he manages to get proof of his credentials from Kampuchea.

In some cases, the association can help refugee physicians pass the necessary exams and get the proper US training to continue

medical careers.

But often, Grenis said, the group assesses their credentials and helps find them alternative health care jobs.

"We tell them not to make becoming a physician their only goal. Many of them are not aware of the difficulties they face in becoming physicians here," she said.

John Onyango, a fictitious name used by one man to protect his family, had a privileged life in Uganda. His father was a high-ranking official in Idi Amin's government.

"I was completing my medical studies in Pakistan when I received news that Amin had been ousted, my father went into exile and many of my relatives were killed," said Onyango.

Helped

Nyana helped him qualify for a two-year training programme as a respiratory therapist, treating people with lung diseases.

"It's an opportunity to stay in the medical field," he said. "It's better than having to take an unskilled job."

Stories about about refugee physicians who drive taxis or wash dishes while struggling to learn English and meet medical standards. Some abandon their careers in frustration.

The situation is an ironic change from the 1950s. From then until about a decade ago, US immigration laws favoured foreign-trained doctors to offset a shortage of physicians.

"A hospital wanted my friend to pass the rigorous test — usually after several attempts — still cannot get into a residency training programme, a requirement for certification.

relative ease. But the trend, he said, has changed radically.

Now there is a surfeit of US-trained doctors and training abroad — especially in the Third World — is increasingly regarded as inadequate, foreign doctors say.

Many foreign-trained physicians argue that the bias is embedded in the first hurdle for licensing, the foreign medical examination in medical science, which they claim is much harder than the exam US graduates take.

Test

Often even those who manage to pass the rigorous test — usually after several attempts — still cannot get into a residency training programme, a requirement for certification.

Hospitals in New York and elsewhere are under pressure to keep the numbers of foreign-trained physicians low so as not to lose federal funding for resident trainees, who are relied on to do much of a hospital's daily work.

Patel said: "A residency programme with 90 per cent FMGs (Foreign Medical Graduates) is considered inferior while a programme with 100 per cent domestic graduates is considered very good."

Even refugee physicians who are placed in residencies, like Vietnamese Nguyen Tuan — not his real name — worry that no hospital will hire them after the training in residence.

Tuan was a doctor when Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) fell to North Vietnam in 1975 and fled to Thailand two years later with his pregnant wife, also a doctor, and other boat people. After arriving in the United States, he passed the medical exam on his first try, but had to wait for two years before starting his residency.

Panamanian regime's credibility is nil

By Alina Guerrero

PANAMA CITY, Panama, (AP): After months of unrest, Panama's government hopes the Christmas season will bring steps toward normality. But government critics remain skeptical about offers of reconciliation.

President Eric Arturo Delvalle says he will announce details soon on the reopening of three closed newspapers, a weekly and two radio stations, and welcome back any opposition leaders who might have fled for fear of their safety.

But Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, says: "No one believes one single word of Delvalle."

Says Pierre Leignadier, president of the chamber of commerce, industries and agriculture: "The government continues suffering in credibility."

Delvalle said last Wednesday he would announce details soon on the reopening of the news outlets and other steps to ease tensions that have been simmering for the past seven months. Government opponents have held massive demonstrations, and Panamanian banks, long a centre for foreign bank holdings, have lost some foreign deposits.

The power behind Delvalle's government, strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, has yet to say if he supports Delvalle's plans to reduce tension.

Noriega's control of the government has been the target of critics and sometimes violent demonstrations since last June. The opposition is calling for the military, specifically Noriega, to move away from its control of the government and allow democratic reforms to take place.

Triggering the opposition demands were allegations of Noriega's involvement in illicit activities ranging from drug trafficking to vote fraud to assassination of political opponents.

Noriega, however, places the

blame for the unrest not on domestic issues, but on the United States which has played a powerful role here since Panamanian independence in 1903.

Noriega says he is in trouble now because of his refusal to help the US government in its fight against Nicaragua's leftist government.

He said President Ronald Reagan's former National Security Adviser John Poindexter asked for his support against the Sandinistas.

"If only I'd said yes... I would not have had any problem," the general said last week. He did not say when his meeting with Poindexter took place.

It was the latest variation in explaining the unrest since Col Roberto Diaz Herrera, recently

retired second-in-command to Noriega, went public with accusations that the general had been involved in illicit activities ranging from drug trafficking to the assassination of political opponents.

Noriega and his supporters regularly have blamed the opposition and the steady drumbeat of allegations of misdeeds on conservative groups in the United States who want to renegotiate the 1977 Panama Canal treaties giving sovereignty over the waterway to Panama by the year 2000.

Foreign Minister Jorge Abadía said Friday that US-Panamanian relations might "recover a little" and that the two nations are doing their part to improve the relation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1793 — French victory at Weissenburg forces allies to retreat across Rhine River.
- 1805 — Peace of Pressburg is signed between France and Austria.
- 1825 — Russian Army uprising is crushed.
- 1827 — Turkey's Sultan Mohamed II rejects right of allies to mediate in war with Greece.
- 1901 — Completion of Uganda railway from Mombassa to Lake Victoria.
- 1938 — Declaration of Peru against all foreign intervention is approved by pan-American conference.
- 1941 — US declares Manila an open city in the Philippines in World War II.
- 1961 — United Nations officials charge that Northern Rhodesia was aiding secessionist Congo province of Katanga in its fight against UN forces.
- 1962 — Eight refugees from deep inside East Germany escape to West Berlin by crashing bus through barriers at border checkpoint.
- 1971 — Sixteen US veterans of Vietnam war seize Statue of Liberty in New York harbour to dramatize their anti-war stand.
- 1974 — Soviet Union sends unmanned scientific station into earth orbit.
- 1977 — Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat conclude meeting at Ismailia, Egypt, without agreeing on Middle East issues.
- 1986 — Argentina's President Raul Alfonsín signs into law a bill aimed at ending prosecution of human rights violations by former military government.

هكذا قال

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bahrain Modern Art Show
An exhibition of Bahrain's modern art opens today at 5 pm at the Dahyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. It will be open daily, until Dec 28, from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival
Ramesh Sharma's political film *New Delhi Times* will be shown tonight at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The film stars Shashi Kapoor and Sharmila Tagore. Children are not admitted. For further details contact the Cine Club, near Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

SOCIAL

ASK Alumni Dinner
Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones - 5314568.

ACT

Auditions for ACT's next production "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Dec 28 (Monday) and Dec 30 (Wednesday) from 7 to 9 pm. For further details and location call 5620332; 5725071.

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam
Special children's brunch parties will be held every Friday from January 1 in El Bender. Lots of fun and games will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm.

At the Holiday Inn
Pastries, stollens and logs for the festive season and New Year are available at the Lobby Lounge. Lunch featuring seasonal food will be offered at the Coffee Shop, Al Dana and Al Andalus. For details contact the hotel.

At the Sheraton
Al Hamba features a special buffet lunch this week. Hunt Room will offer lunch and dinner buffet and a la carte; music by the Paradise Trio. A selection of set menus will be offered for dinner. Le Tarbouche features special lunch and dinner buffets.

At the Meridian
Special lunch and dinner menus will be offered this week at all the outlets. Versailles, La Brasserie and a Tony's Jam session will be held on Thursday. Friday brunch features a special menu, lots of fun and games for all the family.

● All entries for the What's On Column can be teleaxed (22332) to Events Section, or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.15 am
Zuhr	11.48
Asr	2.38 pm
Maghreb	4.56
Isha	6.19

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Rage of Honour
Starring: Jerry Gabon.

Al Sahm
Little Shop of Horrors
Starring: Bill Murray, Ellen Green

Al Hamra
Hands of Steel
Starring: Daniel Green, Janette

Drive-In
Wa Yabqa Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Subair Ramzi, Fuad Bakshi Aziz

Al Firdous
Mirch Masala (Hindi)
Starring: Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Raj Babbar

Fahsheel Open-Air
Deewangi (Hindi)

Al-Fahsheel
Amritham Gamaya (Malayalam)

Al Jahra
Suicide Force

Granada
Flood

Salaikh
Al Fatimat Al Maqalat (Arabic)

Al Jleeb
Nee Allenkil Jaan (Malayalam)

Almadi Drive-In
Running Scared

TV CORNER

Labour pains of Maggie Gioberti

IN an emotionally gripping shocker on Falcon Crest, Susan Sullivan's character, Maggie Gioberti, will give birth prematurely in the living room of the Falcon Crest mansion.

Susan Sullivan, who's never had a baby in real life, was determined to make the scene realistic — so she was coached by star Jane Wyman and a midwife.

Susan became so involved in the acting of the childbirth scene that she started to hyperventilate.

During the scene rehearsal, Jane Wyman stepped right in and advised Susan on the various stages of childbirth from her own experience as a mother.

Falcon Crest producers also hired a trained midwife to coach Susan. The midwife also helped coach Falcon Crest regulars David Selby, who plays Richard Channing, and Robert Foxworth, who plays Chase, Maggie's husband.

In the dramatic birth scene, Maggie falls to the floor in the foyer because of labour pain. Richard and Chase then place her on a couch in the living room.

This scene will be shown in a forthcoming episode of Falcon Crest, now being shown on KTV 2 on Wednesday nights.

Friday's programme on KTV 2 has not been listed, as a new schedule will be announced for 1988.



Maggie is put on the couch.



A scene from the Arabic film, Ah! Ya Balad, Ah!

KTV 1 weekly highlights

SUNDAY
4.25 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial. Starring: Yusuf Shababan, Ragda, Hala Fakher.
10.50 Dairat Al Ahdath: Kamel Abdul Jalil discusses "Accidents and Traffic Problems." Guests are: brig. Fuad Musaad Al Saleh, Abdul Wahab Rashed Haron, Sabah Mohammad Amir Al Rayyes. Hosted by Kamel Sulaiman Abdul Jalil.

MONDAY
3.30 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial.
5.30 Mama Anisa and Children: a weekly show for young viewers.
7.30 Quran and Science: hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim.
9.50 Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras: daily serial, starring Salah Saadani, Hina Tharwath, Mohammad Al Arabi.
10.50 Zaat Al Mas': Arabic play written by Shaker Ma'touk, directed by Abdul Aziz Al Mansour.

TUESDAY
5.30 Al Manahel: an educational programme for young viewers, teaching Arabic language. Ahmad Qawadi, Amal Al Dabbas and Tayseer Attiya appear in this half-hour show.
9.50 Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras: Last episode of daily Arabic serial.
10.50 Bidoun Montage: a local show hosted by Mubarak Al Amer.

WEDNESDAY
7.05 With Students: a weekly programme quiz show presented by the Ministry of Education.

THURSDAY
9.40 The World of Disney: English feature film for children.
11.00 Open University
12.00 Man and Islam: new religious programme presented by Dr Abdul Suboor Shahin.
7.30 Rahlat Fi Alam Majnoon: Arabic serial starring Samir Ghanim and Isad Yunus.
10.00 Ah! Ya Balad, Ah! Arabic feature film, starring Hussein Fahmi, Laila Alwi, Anwar Ismael. A man returns to his village to sell the ancestral property and encounters opposition from the villain.

FRIDAY
10.20 Children's Magazine: a programme for young viewers.
12.15 Min Wali Aynat Wal Bayanat: religious serial.
3.15 Football: Kuwait vs Qatar for 1988 Olympic Games. Live broadcast from Sabah Al Salem Stadium.
9.50 Him Ala Hamish: Arabic play starring Sana Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Hussein Abdul Raheem, Asia Kamal. Produced by Iraqi television.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Hafez Pharmacy
Salah Al Din St.
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Sabah Pharmacy
Othman St.

Salmiya and Runaidhiya
Al Maidan Pharmacy
Baghdad St.
Fahsheel and Almadi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous St., F'heel
Khatib
Al Wahda Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Matafi St.



Angela takes charge as Maggie falls in the foyer of the Falcon Crest mansion.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Inspector Gadget: cartoon serial.
6.30 Not Another Science Show: A look at weather forecasting and meteorology.
7.00 Butterfly Island: "Mystery of Black Pearls." Two mysterious men come to the island, arousing suspicion.
7.30 Understanding Islam: religious programme
8.00 News in English
8.40 Dalton: Code of Vengeance. "Busters Moon." Cattle are stolen from a ranch — until Dalton steps in to stop the thefts.
9.40 Australia: Naturally. "Marine Life." A look at primitive marine life.
10.30 Best-Seller: The Fight Against Slavery. Part 3. In 1791, rebellion spreads in the West Indies. In 1832, Daddy Sharp leads a march against slavery and is hanged. Another rebel leader, Reverend William Knibb is deported to England. Public opinion sways as the movements to abolish slavery gathers momentum.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Paw Paws: Cartoons.
6.30 The Animal Express: a visit to the dog training centres near the Mexican border.
7.00 Roving Report: roundup of world news.
7.30 Webster: "The Truth Hurts." Webster buys a gift for his mother...
8.00 News in English
8.40 American Basketball
10.00 Oddie in Paradise: A look at 200 species of rare birds in New Guinea in addition to turtles, giant lizards and water birds.
10.30 Adderly: "The Secrets of the Sun." A prominent physicist is kidnapped.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

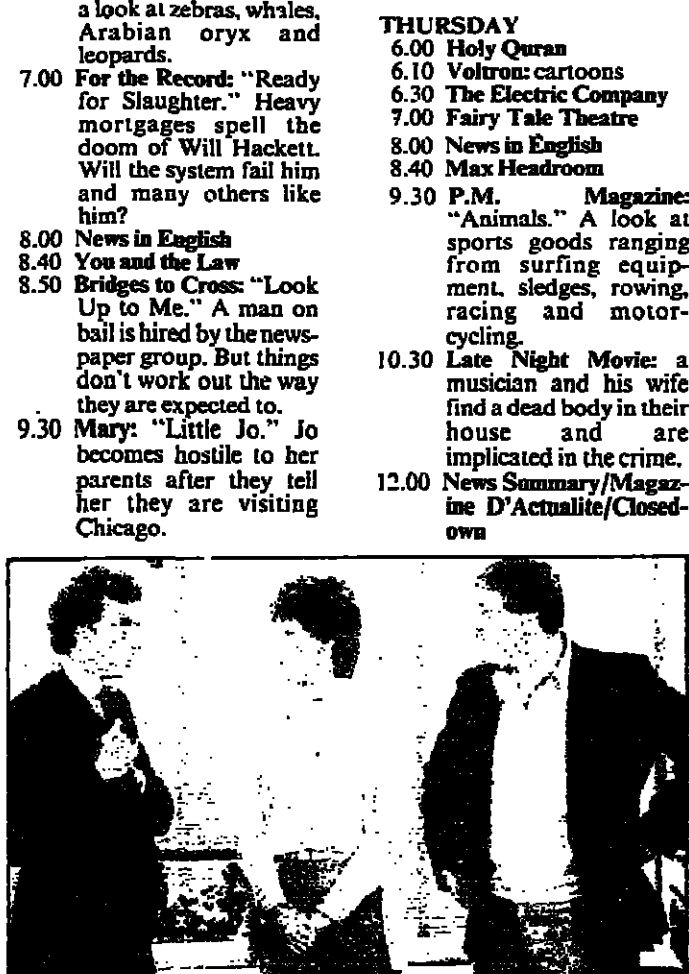
TUESDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Enchanted House: cartoons
6.30 The New Animal World: a look at zebras, whales, Arabian oryx and leopards.
7.00 For the Record: "Ready for Slaughter." Heavy mortgages spell the doom of Will Hackett. Will the system fail him and many others like him?
8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law
8.50 Bridges to Cross: "Look Up to Me." A man on bail is hired by the newspaper group. But things don't work out the way they are expected to.
9.30 Mary: "Little Jo." Jo becomes hostile to her parents after they tell her they are visiting Chicago.

WEDNESDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey and Donald: cartoons
6.30 Charles in Charge: "Charles learns a great deal from Grandma, who is visiting the family."
7.00 Natural World: "Where Parrots Speak Mandarin." This episode deals with the man-animal relationship in China.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Outlaws: "Birth-day." The outlaws celebrate a friend's birthday.
9.30 The World We Live In: "The Riddle of Heredity." Research on genetic diseases and puzzles.
10.00 Sledge Hammer: "The Old Man and Sledge." Sledge finds a job for an old man, who gets into trouble after thieves break in at the show where he works.
10.30 Falcon Crest: "A Piece of Work." Richard Channing takes over distribution of wine; Maggie waits for her baby and Angela has a new trick up her sleeve.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Voltron: cartoons
6.30 The Electric Company
7.00 Fairy Tale Theatre
8.00 News in English
8.40 Max Headroom
9.30 P.M. Magazine: "Animals." A look at sports goods ranging from surfing equipment, sledges, rowing, racing and motorcycling.
10.30 Late Night Movie: a musician and his wife find a dead body in their house and are implicated in the crime.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

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12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Mum gets a gift from Webster, on Monday at 7.30 pm. Above a scene from Webster.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.25 World News Via Satellite
3.20 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
4.25 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial. Starring: Abdullah Al Ghaith, Iman Toqi, Ahmad Abdul Aziz, Ahmad Badr.
5.30 Al Manahel: Programme for children
6.00 Rahlat Istakshafiyah: "Expeditions." Educational.
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Noor Al Islam: "The Rights of Man in Islam." Guests are Dr Ismael Ibrahim Badawi and Dr Mustafa Mohammad Arjawi. Hosted by Ahmed Abdul Qadir.
7.35 Nazrat Alal Alam: documentary
7.45 Security and Citizens
8.20 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
10.05 Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras: daily serial featuring Salah Saadani, Hina Tharwath, Mohammad Al Arabi
11.00 Variety Show
11.30 News Summary
11.40 World News via Satellite
12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown



The episode of Snow Queen continues as Hunter chases the runaway girl, tonight at 9.40 pm on KTV 2.

KTV 2

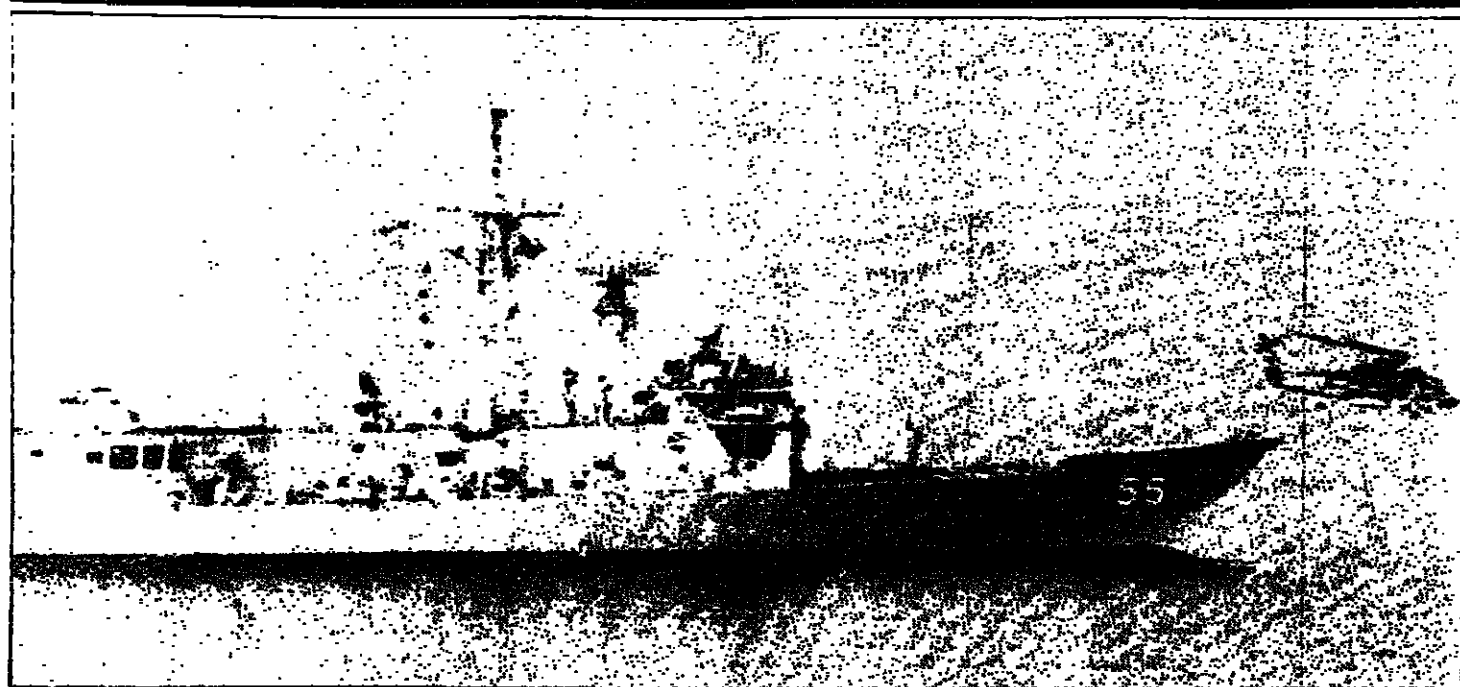
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thundercats: "Return to the Driller." An animated feature story for children.
6.30 A.F.: a baby sitter is hired to look after the children while the parents attend a wedding party. The baby sitter was not told about A.F.
7.00 Tomorrow-Today: psycho-analysis; electronics industry; computerisation and other topics are discussed in this science show.
7.30 Red: "Lucinda." Emma suspects foul play after Lucinda's sudden return to town.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Italian Football
9.40 Hunter: "Snow Queen." part two. Hunter is pursuing a runaway, who escapes once again...
10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "Isabel's Choice." Starring Jean Stapleton, Richard Kiley, Peter Coyote, Betsy Palmer. A lonely executive secretary in a large corporation becomes disenchanted with her work, despite the chance to advance. Ambitious co-worker and nagging mother step in to complicate matters.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite, Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

FM Services

08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
08.30-08.40 News
08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
10.00-10.30 Songs and Music
10.30-11.00 Easy Listening
11.00-11.30 News
11.30-12.00 Easy Listening
12.00-12.30 Classical music
12.30-13.00 Easy Listening
13.00-13.30 Pops
13.30-14.00 News
14.00-14.30 Classical music
14.30-15.00 Easy Listening
15.00-15.30 Pops
15.30-16.00 News
16.00-16.30 Easy Listening
16.30-17.00 Pops
17.00-17.30 News
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A FILE picture of the US frigate "Elrod" with its helicopter hovering at the front in the southern Gulf last month. Five Iranian speedboats opened up fire with machine guns at the helicopter in the same region on Thursday but the shots went wide, a US Navy spokesman said. (Reuters radiophoto)



INDIAN Minister for External Affairs Natwar Singh (right) greets the President of Afghanistan Dr Sayid Najibullah on Thursday during a one-day stopover visit in New Delhi. (Reuters radiophoto)



A NEWLY-ARRIVED Vietnamese refugee happily eats his first ever Christmas gift, a lollipop, while waiting out a two-week period of quarantine in Hong Kong's "closed" Chi Ma Wan refugee camp on Wednesday. (Reuters radiophoto)



A DUTCH youth of Italian origin, believed to be Alessandro Scioni, between 15 and 18 years old, (pictured left) is led away by a plainclothes policeman in Rome on Wednesday, after he surrendered following his hijacking of a Dutch KLM Boeing 737, with 91 passengers on board and six crew members, in which he ordered the pilot to fly to Rome. Above, Italian police watch unidentified passengers of the hijacked plane after they were released unharmed Wednesday night. (Reuters radiophoto)



KENIA RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, age 6, who lost both her feet when a Contra mortar hit her house during an attack on Siuna last Sunday, waits on an airstrip in northeastern Nicaragua to be airlifted to a hospital in Managua. She was one of the hundreds of victims of the two days of fighting when US backed Contras attacked the towns of Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza, 160 miles northeast of Managua. (Reuters radiophoto)



KEN SUZUKI, a member of the editorial board reads a copy of "Seasonal AIDS Journal". Japan's first magazine devoted solely to information on the deadly disease AIDS now goes on sale to medical experts and health officials. (Reuters radiophoto)



MARIE-JOSEE HELLEC (right) and her daughter Sarah (left) play together at their arrival at Paris Orly airport on Thursday. Hellec is one of the nine French mothers who flew to Algiers on Tuesday to ask the help of Algerian authorities in bringing back their children held by Algerian fathers. (Reuters radiophoto)



JOELLE KAUFFMANN, wife of kidnapped French journalist Jean Paul Kauffmann, speaks to journalists as she sits next to a Christmas tree at a west Beirut hotel lobby on Thursday. Kauffmann arrived in Beirut to spend Christmas Eve near her husband, held captive by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organisation for more than two years. (Reuters radiophoto)



ILLUSIONISTS Siegfried and Roy show off three white tiger cubs, born several days ago, at their home in Las Vegas. The tigers, one male and two females, were born to the performers' rare white tiger. (Reuters radiophoto)



TAIWAN President Chiang Ching Kuo is wheeled into the National Assembly yesterday where he was screamed down by opposition deputies demanding full elections of parliament. (Reuters radiophoto)



A CHILD watches a snowman candle flicker on Christmas Eve in Helsinki, Finland. (Reuters radiophoto)

هكذا من الأمل

A guide to the study of spies



Sean Connery as spy James Bond 007. Talented writers and filmmakers have developed and broadened the appeal of the spy story.

By Jane Stewart Spitzer

THE immense popularity and proliferation of the spy story is a 20th-century phenomenon. Although espionage is often referred to as the second-oldest profession, and it plays a part in such early literature as "The Iliad," "The Odyssey," and the Bible, according to the authors of *The Spy Story* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 259 pp., \$22.50), "It was not until the 20th century that the secret agent, became the heroic protagonist of a major form of popular narrative."

In their fascinating study of the spy story, which they define as "a story whose protagonist has some primary connection with espionage," John G. Cawelti, professor of English at the University of Kentucky, and Bruce A. Rosenberg, professor of American civilization and English at Brown University, provide several reasons for its flourishing: First, the clandestine quality, with its accompanying fantasies of invisibility, disguise, and secret exercise of power, appeals strongly to the imagination. Second, the increasing importance of international espionage, caused by two world wars, the rise of totalitarian governments, the cold war, and the fear of nuclear catastrophe, has made spy and clandestine activity the "central symbols of the human condition in the 20th century."

People feel a sense of ambiguity about their place in society and a sense of alienation from the large organizations in their lives that enable them to identify with the spy "out in the cold." And fourth, talented writers and filmmakers have developed and broadened the appeal of the spy story.

Inspired by the first spy novel, "The Spy" was written by an American, James Fenimore Cooper, and published in 1821. Set during the American Revolution, it was probably inspired by the capture and execution of a British spy, Maj. John Andre. It was the British, however, who were responsible for the significant development of the spy novel.

In late 19th-century Britain, a growing fear of anarchism and foreign invasion helped spur the growing popularity of espionage adventure stories, which were inspired by the colonial adventures of H. Rider Haggard and Rudyard Kipling. Kipling's "Kim," published in 1902, combined colonial adventure with espionage. In 1903, Erskine Childers's "Riddle of the Sands," in which two young British gentlemen expose a German invasion plot, launched the modern spy story. The first spy-story classic, John Buchan's "The Thirty-Nine Steps," was published in 1913. Alfred Hitchcock made Buchan's novel into a spy-film classic in 1939.

Cawelti and Rosenberg devote individual chapters to the five major figures in the history

of the spy novel. Buchan perfected the heroic spy story by combining the traditions of adventure fiction with international espionage. During the 1930s, Eric Ambler and Graham Greene introduced a new kind of spy story, in which ordinary people became caught up in international conspiracies. Ian Fleming revived the heroic spy story and added a strong dose of irony with the 1953 publication of his first James Bond novel, "Casino Royale." John le Carre introduced the most recent school of spy fiction, in which loyalty, betrayal, and double agency are stressed, with the publication in 1961 of his first novel, "Call for the Dead."

The five major figures in the history of the spy novel — Buchan, Ambler, Greene, Fleming, and le Carre — are all British. Most of the 20 names on Cawelti and Rosenberg's list of "The Best Spy Writers" (included in their 24-page chapter, "Guide to the Spy Story") are British. The only woman on the list, and one of the very few women in the field, is Helen MacInnes, an American born in Britain. Yet Cawelti and Rosenberg do not examine the reasons for or even mention the decidedly masculine and British influence on the spy story.

Waning

British domination of the field may be waning, however. American writers are well represented in the current crop of spy novels. David Quammen's *The Soul of Viktor Tronko* (Doubleday, New York, \$17.95), offers a variation on the theme of the amateur caught up in the world of espionage, while William L. DeAndrea's *Azrael* (Mysterious Press, New York, \$15.95), is the third novel in his series about a professional spy. The British are represented by For the Good of the State (Mysterious Press, New York, \$16.95), by Anthony Prince, whose novels are the basis for "Chessgame," a British television series, and the Seeds of Treason (Mysterious Press, \$15.95), by Ted Allbeury, who is on Cawelti and Rosenberg's list of the best spy writers.

Spy fiction has long been regarded as part of the mystery-suspense genre. Whole chapters in both the first edition of Dillys Winn's *Murder Ink* (Workman Publishing, New York, 1977) and Julian Symon's study of crime fiction, *Bloody Murder* (Viking, New York, 1985), are devoted to spy fiction. However, several recent studies have been devoted exclusively to spy fiction. These include *The British Spy Novel*, by John Atkins (John Calder, London, 1984), *The Novels of John le Carre*, by David Monaghan (Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1985), and now, "The Spy Story." As spy fiction becomes more popular and prolific, it may eventually be recognized as a separate genre.

1987, The Christian Science Monitor.

What Israeli schoolchildren are taught about Arabs

By Magda Abu Fadil

THROUGH the mouths of babes one may hear surprising gems of disjointed conversation. Through the minds of children pass endless thoughts shaped by adult frames of reference and reinforced over time by biases and their own prejudices. Authors of academic texts or children's literature may use poetic licence to stereotype groups whose background or politics they find distasteful. The ultimate victims, undoubtedly, are the readers or students whose ideas are moulded at a tender age.

A case in point — or rather an entire study — is Fouzi El Asmar's Ph.D. dissertation published as a scholarly document on what Israeli schoolchildren are taught about their Arab neighbours. The study is a concise compendium of examples from noted Hebrew authors in Israel whose driving force is to create a distorted image of Palestinians in particular, and Arabs in general.

To introduce his uninitiated reader, El Asmar dedicates the first four chapters of his book to the concept of Zionism, and its emergence in Europe in the last century as a motivating factor in the creation of what is today the state of Israel. He traces the earliest calls for a

Fouzi El Asmar's Ph.D. dissertation published as a scholarly document is a concise compendium of examples from noted Hebrew authors in Israel whose driving force is to create a distorted image of Palestinians in particular, and Arabs in general. Rarely is armed conflict between Arabs and Jews characterised except as clashes with "gangs and robbers", "indicted mobs", "infiltrators" or "saboteurs".

In the light of the current uprising by the youth of Palestine, and the brutal attempts to control it by young Israeli soldiers, the author's expose assumes a timely poignancy.

Jewish homeland to (among others) Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai, who urged rich European Jews to contribute toward the creation of Jewish colonies in the Holy Land as early as 1834.

A common thread among Zionist authors and advocates of settlement at the time was the perpetuation of the notion that Jewish settlers would "return" to a barren land devoid of inhabitants. Accordingly, El Asmar points to the celebrated phrase attributed to Israel Zangwill, a leading early British Zionist, who described Jews as "a people without a land for a land without a people."

Political Zionism took shape in the late 1800s by trading on arguments that Jews were spiritually linked to Palestine, that Gentiles were inherently anti-Semitic, and that Zionism was

the ultimate saviour for Jews scattered around the world. The presence of Arabs in "Eretz Yisrael" (the land of Israel) subsequently came as a surprise to many early settlers. "One of the main issues obsessing the architects of the Zionist efforts in Palestine and especially leading thinkers of the Zionist left was the demographic question: how to create a Jewish majority in Palestine," writes El Asmar. Zionism became the prerequisite for a "Socialist" Jewish state.

Festering problems
From Theodor Herzl to the founders of Israel in the 1940s El Asmar chronicles accounts in which Jews are repeatedly told Arab leaders misguided their followers by urging them to evacuate towns and villages rather than fight armed Jewish settlers. He faults Israeli writers for ignoring countless instances of mass expulsions and the creation of a Palestinian Arab refugee problem. Perhaps the very negation of a Palestinian population underlines how Jewish adults and children deal with a festering problem. El Asmar quotes another memorable Zionist observation by former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir who stated in 1969 that "there was no such thing as Palestinians."

Turning specifically to Hebrew literature, the author notes how most references to Arabs become synonymous with "foreigners" — hence, Arabs do not belong on that contested land. "This 'foreignness' of the Arab is also utilised to prepare the ground for a deeper explanation, which says that the Arabs, since they are 'foreigners', came to the land in order to destroy it, and to kill and steal," he explains.

To justify their "return", Jewish writers such as Eliezer Semoli and Yigal Mosinson often purport to convey Arab thoughts by creating story characters of docile Arabs accepting Jewish claims to the land, or outright saboteurs, with whom there is little in common and whose presence is no longer acceptable. Resistance to settlements, expulsions and provocation by the Jews invariably led to armed attacks. Hebrew children's literature is rife with examples of Arab "gangs" and "mobs".

also examines the very portrayal of Arabs in the literature he selected — invariably negative stereotypical representations. Arabs who steal and kill in Hebrew-language books, he notes, are plain criminals who must be punished. Their motives are considered irrelevant. In a chapter entitled "The Arab Character", El Asmar identifies the following stereotypes in children's books: the thieving Arab, the dirty Arab, the cursing Arab, the corrupt Arab and the Bedouins — all of whom have no rights to the land and represent a threat to the Jews.

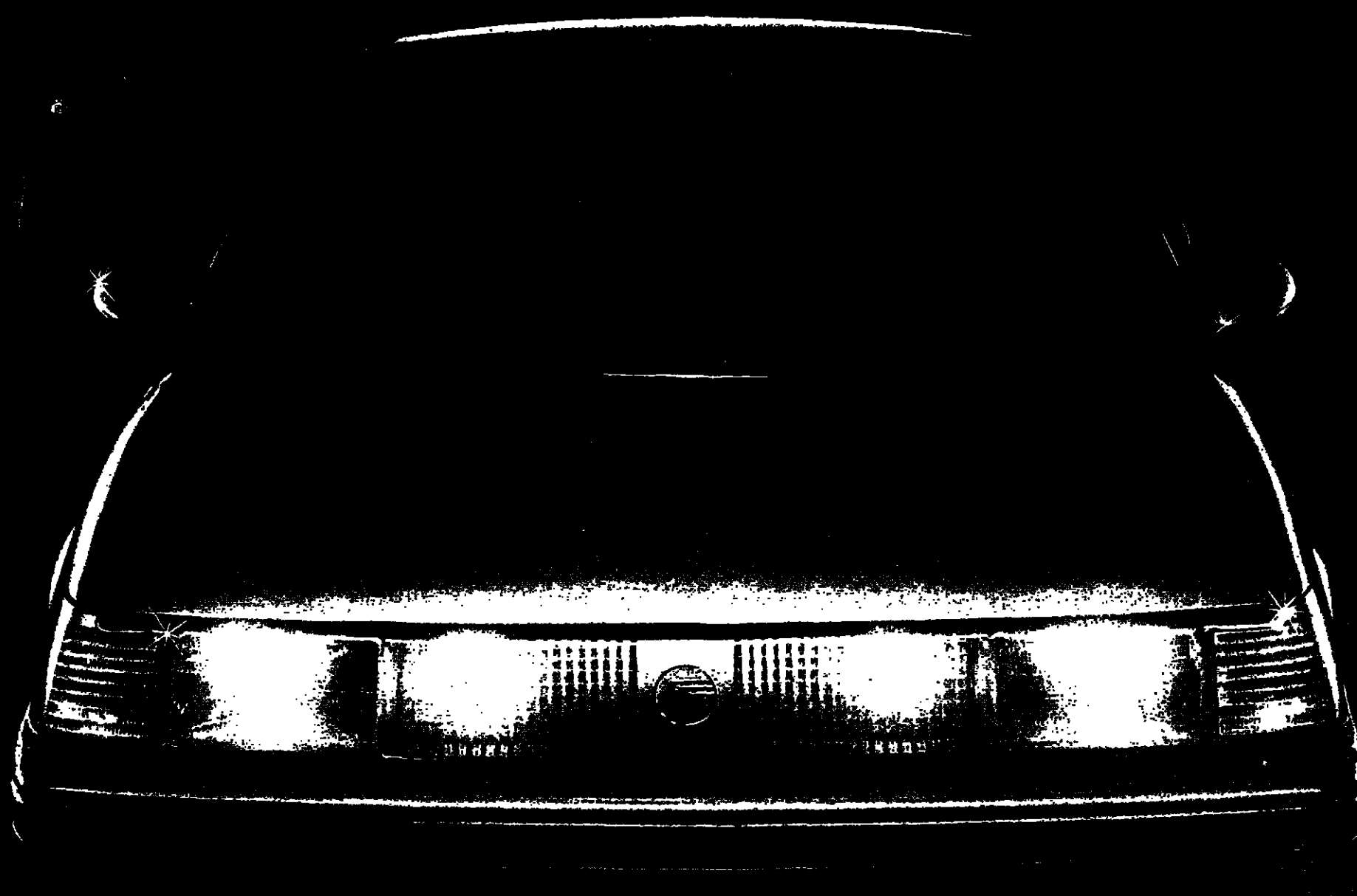
Rarely is armed conflict between Arabs and Jews characterised except as clashes with "gangs and robbers", "indicted mobs", "infiltrators" or "saboteurs". On the other side, El Asmar writes, Israeli soldiers are usually portrayed as "supermen". Israeli superiority necessitates Arab inferiority in Hebrew books. "These authors construct very serious obstacles to the development of any orientation or aspiration towards peace in the minds of their young readers", he argues.

But Jewish writers did not paint all Arabs with a terrorist brush. On the positive side, those who disapproved of anti-Jewish activities were considered civilised. El Asmar quotes Nathan Shabam's reference to Arab cheerleaders: "All of the talk of the instigators in condemnation of the Jews fails to penetrate their ears. From the top of the mountain they see marshy lands which are transformed into a human settlement, and they cannot contain their admiration at the daring and ability and work and ambition." (Now it is Permitted to Reveal, 1959).

Apart from a recitation of historical events, El Asmar

Through the Hebrew Looking-Glass: Arab Stereotypes in Children's Literature by Fouzi El Asmar Zed Books/AMANA Books, 1986.

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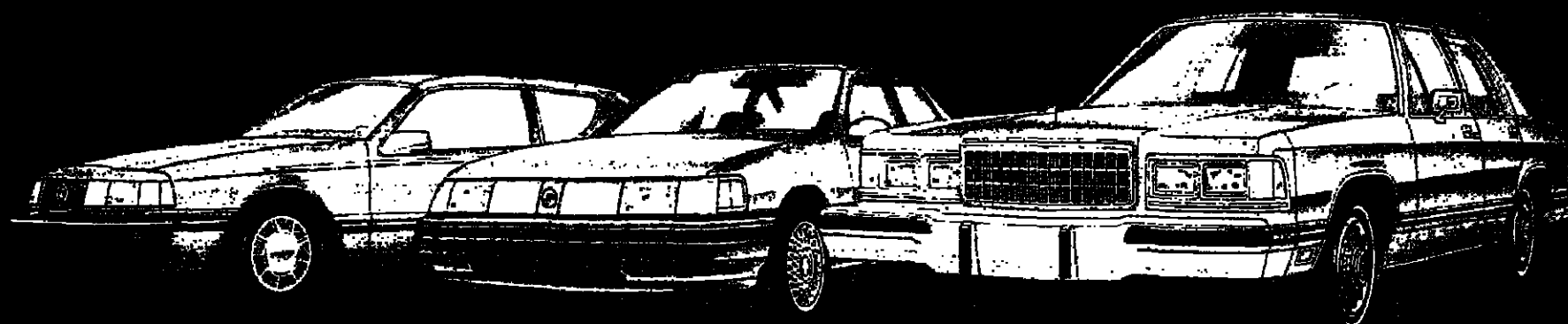
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Year of the comeback in pop music

1987: when rock music turned middle-aged

By John Swenson

NEW YORK (UPI) — In 1987 pop music looked in the mirror and saw a touch of grey.

Rock 'n' roll, the music that began as the exhilarating soundtrack to '50s and '60s youth, has inexorably gravitated toward middle age as its audience and its best-known practitioners push — and pass — the 40-year mark.

If there was one moment that symbolized rock 'n' roll in 1987, it was the jam session at the end of the second annual rock and roll hall of fame induction dinner in New York.

With Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins, Ben E. King and Smokey Robinson sharing the stage with Bruce Springsteen, Keith Richards, Sting and Daryl Hall, the average age of the most star-studded jam in rock history was closer to 50.

The past year has seen a host of aging rockers revive their careers after long layoffs. Robertson, who helped change the direction of popular music at the end of the '60s as part of the band, released an awesome solo debut after nearly a decade away from the studio.

The album's most moving track, "Fallen Angel," was dedicated to his friend and fellow brand-mate Richard Manuel, who committed suicide last year.

George Harrison came out of retirement with "Cloud Nine," one of the strongest albums he's made since the breakup of the Beatles. "Got

My Mind Set On You," the sing-along hit from "Cloud Nine," was one of the year's best songs.

Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia, who suffered a near-fatal diabetic coma last year, rebounded dramatically. "In The Dark," the first new Grateful Dead recording in seven years, and the single "Touch of Grey" became the group's first top 10 album and single. The record is an eloquent coming to terms with aging and death, exemplified by "Touch of Grey" and the eerie, mystical "Black Muddy River."

Comeback

The Dead consolidated its comeback by touring constantly, including a historic pairing with another longtime rock legend, Bob Dylan. A restless Garcia played additional dates with another group, including a sensational series of performances on Broadway.

Warren Zevon, the brilliant songwriter who was one of the '70s most notorious bad boys, returned to the mainstream after undergoing alcohol rehabilitation with an excellent album, "Sentimental Hygiene." Zevon confronted his problems in songs like "Trouble Waiting To Happen," "Bad Karma" and "Detox Mansion." Zevon's tour was one of the year's most exciting comebacks.

Gregg Allman was another rehabilitated rocker who came up with a top-flight comeback in "I'm No Angel." Allman's



U2: a truly international sound that is one of the few real innovations to come out of '80s rock.



Jerry Garcia of Grateful Dead came back with 'In The Dark'.

crack band recalls the heady days when the blues singer and keyboardist led the Allman Brothers band.

Perhaps the most dramatic comeback of 1987 was that of the granddaddy of all rockers, Chuck Berry. Largely through the efforts of musical director Keith Richards, who assembled the greatest band Berry has worked with since at least the early '60s Berry was presented at the height of his powers for the first time in two decades in the film, "Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' Roll."

The soundtrack, assembled from live performances celebrating Berry's 60th birthday, proves convincingly that rock 'n' rollers can still kick out the jams when they're old enough to collect social security.

Other old timers who reappeared included Joan Baez, who released a new album and controversial autobiography, "Alex Chilton, who first



George Harrison came out of retirement with 'Cloud Nine'.

won fame as leader of the Box Tops in the '60s British rockers Jethro Tull, Yes and Pink Floyd; Motown's classic vocal group The Temptations; the lascivious soul monologist Barry White; southern rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Atlanta Rhythm Section; guitar hero Duane Eddy; John Kay of Steppenwolf; the gravel-voiced Joe Cocker and ex-mothers of invention bassist Jimmy Carl Black.

Even heavy metal, one of rock's relatively newer genres, has been around long enough for former stars to return to prominence after a lengthy hiatus. Two of the year's biggest heavy metal acts returned to the fray, Def Leppard's "Hysteria" is the band's first album since drummer Rick Allen lost an arm in a car accident five years ago.

Aerosmith, one of the top hard rock bands of the '70s, released the comeback album "Permanent Vacation" after

being brought back into the public eye last year by rappers Run D.M.C., who revived the Aerosmith Chestnut "Walk This Way."

The year's most disappointing return to action, oddly enough, was from the one member of this group under 30, Michael Jackson. Though "Bad" is a skillfully made record that has justified itself commercially, it represents an artistic decline for Jackson himself after his spectacular performance on "Thriller."

1987 also was the 20th anniversary of "The Summer of Love," another factor making this a year of reminiscence. The 20th anniversary of the Beatles' watershed Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album coincided with the release of the Beatles catalogue on compact disc.

The emergence of compact discs as a viable alternative to tapes and record inevitably brought attention to those groups that no longer exist, like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Doors. A rykodisc CD, "The Jimi Hendrix Experience Live At Winterland," showed that CDS have plenty to offer, as this stunning hour-plus concert has never before been available.

Los Lobos get the nod as group of the year. The uncompromising Mexican-American rockers from east Los Angeles put out the exceptional album "By The Light Of The Moon," a dense, musically eclectic set of songs that range from David Hidalgo's Steinbeckian social realism to the no-holds-barred rockers penned by Cesar Rosas.

Solidified

If that weren't enough, Los Lobos recorded most of the soundtrack for "La Bamba," a film about the life of Mexican-American pop star Ritchie Valens. The band's version of the title track was certainly the song of the year, hanging in at No. 1 for three weeks despite fierce competition from heavily promoted new singles by Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston.

Best new group of the year

was the Radiators, who came blasting out of the New Orleans with a strong major label debut, "Law Of The Fish."

Prince solidified his standing as the most accomplished synthesist of black and white pop styles, while at the same time showing tremendous maturation as a songwriter on the ambitious two-record set, "Sign O' The Times."

Though it may sound hard to believe, Bruce Springsteen was another rocker whose songwriting matured substantially. As good as Springsteen was in the past, "Tunnel Of Love" revealed that the boss is capable of handling the complexities of interpersonal relationship with a dramatist's touch more closely associated with the Bob Dylan's "Blood On The Tracks," or Elvis Costello's "Imperial Bedroom."

John Cougar Mellencamp delved even more deeply into his heartland roots for "The Lonesome Jubilee," the most authentically American rock album of the year. Mixing Bible imagery with personal observation, Mellencamp drastically revamped his sound to add a more country, blues and cajun atmosphere to his arrangements. The resulting tour was one of the year's finest shows.

U2 consolidated its position as the world's best rock band. The stark, atmospheric sound of "The Joshua Tree" provided the basis for a dramatic concert tour that somehow combined anthemic political urgency with spine-chilling rock dynamics.



Michael Jackson, returned to the music scene with 'Bad'.

Rick Astley No. 1 in UK
George Michael stays atop US pop charts

NEW YORK (AP) — George Michael kept his Faith holding on to the top of the single pop record charts in the United States for the third week in a row.

Whitesnake's "Is This Love" hopped up one notch to second spot on the Cash box magazine chart, and former Beatle George Harrison vaulted from eighth to third position with "Got My Mind Set On You."

Last week's number two hit, Belinda Carlisle's "Heaven Is A Place On Earth," topped out of the top ten list completely.

Soaring onto the list was The Way You Make Me Feel by Michael Jackson, up from 13th to 7th. Two other newcomers were Valerie by Steve Winwood, up from 11th to 9th, and Need You Tonight by Inxs, up from 14th to 10th.

Highway 101 took over the number spot on the Cash Box magazine country and western singles chart with Somewhere Tonight. Kenny Rogers was second with I Prefer The Moonlight, and Hank Williams Jr. was third with Heaven Can't Be Found.

Top Ten-US

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Faith — George Michael (Columbia).
- (2) Is This Love — Whitesnake (Geffen).
- (3) Got My Mind Set On You — George Harrison (Dark Horse-Warner Brothers).
- (4) So Emotional — Whitney Houston (Arista).
- (5) Don't You Want Me — Jody Watley (MCA).
- (6) Shake Your Love — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic).
- (7) The Way You Make Me Feel — Michael Jackson (Epic).
- (8) (Catch Me) I'm Falling — Pretty Poison (Virgin).
- (9) Valerie — Steve Winwood (Island-Warner Brothers).
- (10) Need You Tonight — Inxs (Atlantic).

The ten top country-western singles as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (2) Somewhere Tonight —

Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).

2. (3) I Prefer The Moonlight — Kenny Rogers (RCA).

3. (4) Heaven Can't Be Found — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Brothers-Curb).

4. (5) I Can't Get Close Enough — Exile (Epic).

5. (1) Do Ya' — K.T. Oslin (RCA).

6. (7) One Friend — Dan Seals (Capitol).

7. (8) I'll Pin A Note On Your Pillow — Billy Joe Royal (Atlantic America).

8. (6) She Couldn't Love Me Anymore — T. Graham Brown (Capitol).

9. (11) Goin' Gone — Kathy Mattea (Mercury-Polygram).

10. (12) Where Do The Nights Go — Ronnie Milsap (RCA).

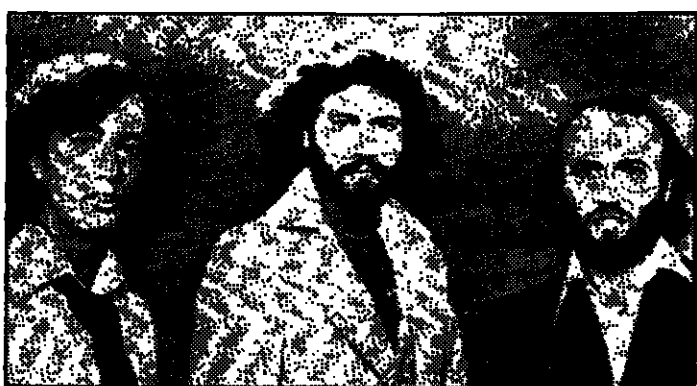
And in London Rick Astley topped the British pop singles chart for 1987 with Never Gonna Give You Up, a week after his latest single, When I Fall In Love-My Arms Keep Missing You moved into first place.

Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now, by the group Starship, took second place followed by Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me).

Top Ten-singles-UK

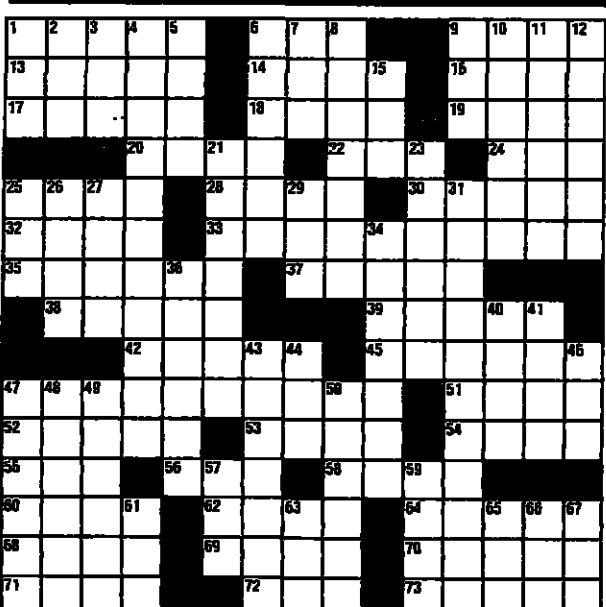
There was no listing for this year's top 10 singles, which included a tie for sixth place. They are:

1. Never Gonna Give Up — Rick Astley — RCA.
2. Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now — Starship — Grunt.
3. I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me) — Whitney Houston — Arista.
4. Under The Boardwalk — Bruce Willis — Motion.
5. You Win Again — Bee Gees — Warner Bros.
6. Can't Be With You Tonight — Judy Boucher — Orbitone.
7. Always — Atlantic Starr — Warner Bros.
8. Pump Up The Volume — MARRS — 4AD.
9. Respectable — Mel and Kim — Supreme.
10. Down To Earth — Curiosity Killed the Cat — Mercury.



The Bee Gees: One of the year's most surprising comebacks.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Palindromic title
 - 6 Dolorous
 - 9 Carryall
 - 13 Charles's wife
 - 14 Fly the blue pencil
 - 16 Something unique
 - 17 Den
 - 18 Diva Ponselle
 - 19 Gull's cousin
 - 20 Breathing sound
 - 22 Nickname for 10 Down
 - 24 George's brother
 - 25 Salinger heroine
 - 28 Within: Prefix
 - 30 Novelist
 - 32 Glasgow
 - 33 Chicago-based maestro
 - 35 Margaret or Geraldine
 - 37 Take the helm
 - 38 Marrow: Comb. form
 - 39 Fence steps
 - 42 Early stringed instruments
 - 45 Celtic chief's heir
 - 47 New York-based maestro
 - 51 Chess player's achievement
 - 52 Hole — as a pin
 - 54 Region
 - 55 Container
 - 56 Rachel Carson subject
 - 58 Brittle
 - 60 Island volcano
 - 62 Quarrel
 - 64 Intense blue
 - 66 Nicklaus necessities
 - 69 Baseball's Rose
 - 70 Squirrels' homes
- DOWN**
- 1 AMA members
 - 2 Little island
 - 3 Farm member
 - 4 Los Angeles-based maestro
 - 5 Ballerina
 - 6 Untroubled
 - 7 Fuss
 - 8 Misshape
 - 9 Wee dram
 - 10 Former House Speaker
 - 11 Harness ring
 - 12 Pavarotti role
 - 15 Randy's skating partner
 - 21 Enough space to stretch out
 - 23 Money in Madrid
 - 25 Before gee
 - 26 Bridge achievement
 - 27 McCarthy of
 - 29 John — Passos
 - 31 Pittsburgh-based maestro
 - 34 Conceal and develop
 - 36 Certain fashions
 - 40 Pinocchio, sometimes
 - 41 Italian princely family
 - 43 Delaware Indians
 - 44 Haggard opus
 - 46 London repeat
 - 47 Civet cats of Asia
 - 48 Weds
 - 49 Easter hat
 - 50 Large wine glass
 - 57 Seer's talent
 - 59 Enjoys the sun
 - 61 Foolish one
 - 63 "Dances — Gathering"
 - 65 Robbins ballet
 - 66 Map abbr.
 - 67 Superlative suffix

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

L I I I A S A L I L A W
 P R I A S P A L C A R O N I
 S I R I A C E C O N D U I T
 B O A S T E D C O R D A T E
 A L B S D O U R T M E N
 N E A T M E A L S H I N D
 U N H E A R D T E T C H E D
 B R O U E M I L
 E C O N O M Y B L O T T O
 S T R A I N S C O T C H E D
 S T E R E S E S S K I L L O
 S E E D S R A S N E R

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ 72 ♣ 9542 ♦ KJ93 ♣ 875
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 ♦ Pass ?
 What do you bid now?

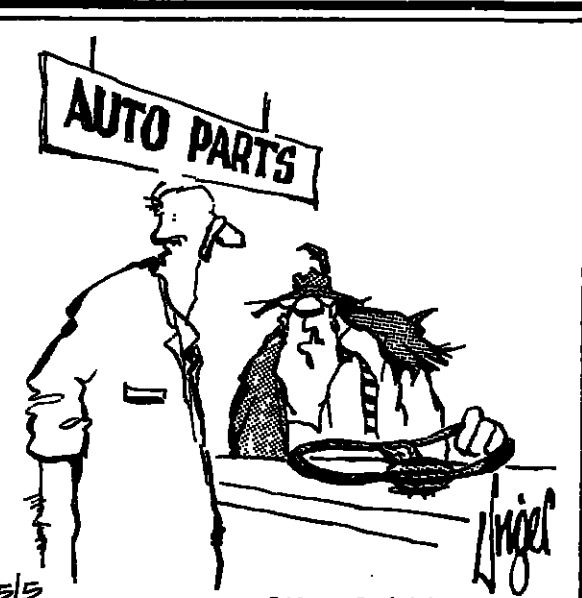
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ A6 ♣ AKQJ52 ♦ — ♣ AQ1073
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 5 ♣ Pass
 ?
 What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ 7 ♣ AKQ62 ♦ A5 ♣ KJ965
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 ?
 What do you bid now?

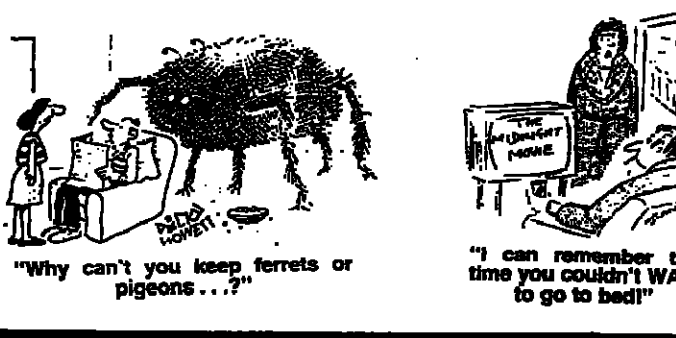
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ KJ943 ♣ A7 ♦ AJ8542 ♣ —
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♣
 ?
 What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ 9762 ♣ 8763 ♦ QJ93 ♣ 6
 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ Q10762 ♣ 79 ♦ K8753 ♣ 84
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Dbl ?
 ?
 What do you bid now?



"One of everything."



"Why can't you keep ferrets or pigeons..."

"I can remember the time you couldn't wait to go to bed!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 21 - April 18)

You should take even better care of your health. Do not allow some small upset to disturb your peace of mind. No harm in having a bit of gentle fun. Be cordial.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to do the sensible thing. You will be more prepared to face a new fact. Do not leave your friends out of account. Be less solemn.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

There will be some moments of tension but you will know how to deal with them. Do not try to lay down the law just now. Avoid exaggerations and do not boast. Be resilient.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not hesitate to say what is on your mind but do so tactfully. A certain readiness to make concession will stand you in good stead. You will be able to do a friend something of a favour.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will be able to come to quite an important decision. With a little more generosity on your part you will be able to resolve a personal problem. If you eat sensibly you will not have to diet drastically.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should avoid doing anything outrageous. You will be able to resolve a more personal problem. You will be able to have a sign of relief about something that did not happen. Be prompt.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should not take everything quite so literally. Whilst you continue to be in a slightly bad mood make doubly sure you do not get into an argument. Take even better care whilst on the road.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should not stand quite so much on your dignity. Avoid allowing your emotions to get the upper hand and distort your judgement. Do not let thoughts of the future spoil your enjoyment of the present. Be hopeful.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be more susceptible to strain and should do your best to relax. A solution to a problem that has been troubling you is close at hand. Now is a good time to take stock of your situation.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should not even try to evade your responsibilities. Seek to do things a little more systematically yet without becoming too rigid. If you have had some late nights make up for lost sleep. Be tactful.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be able to make progress in a more practical matter. You should not neglect something you know requires more immediate attention.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Today something that has been puzzling you will become more clear. You will feel rather at ease and quite pleased with yourself. You will be able to seize hold of a good opportunity. Be considerate.

TRAVEL

Spirit of Islam thrives in Zamboanga, a Muslim enclave in the Philippines

Vibrant mosaic of sights and sounds

DOWN at the Zamboanga wharf all is hustle and bustle. Passenger and cargo vessels from all over the Philippine archipelago tie up alongside the wharf. Ferry boats which serve different parts of the southern Mindanao island jostle for space with the kumpit, the long, deep motorboats which carry cargo between Zamboanga and ports in Borneo. And in the distance can be heard the chanting of Allah Akbar, the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer from the minaret of a gold-domed mosque.

Zamboanga is a unique city in the Philippines, a vibrant mosaic of sights and sounds patterned by crosscurrents of cultures, trade, religions, languages and ethnic arts. For many, the city long celebrated in song and legend is almost magical, the spirit indomitably that of Islam. For this is the

heart of all the intriguing exotica of Muslim land today. The city has a rich and colorful history. It was a land of flowers and a trading post where maritime merchants of Chinese-Malay origin would tie up their vinta sailboats at the samboang and wade ashore to haggle over their goods with the native Tausug, Subanon, Samal and Badjao tribes. Archaeological findings date this trade as far back as the Yuan and Ming dynasties.

In 1593, the Spanish arrived and for almost three centuries held sway over what is now Zamboanga City, with Fort Pilar as the centre of the settlement. The influx of Spanish colonizers and other groups from Luzon and the Visayas attracted people from the neighboring islands of Basilan and the Sulu Archipelago for trade and commerce. And as is happening even today, many

people from outlying areas seek protection from pirate raids and unstable peace and order conditions at "La Villa," as the city was known during Spanish times.

The presence of the Spanish amidst many Filipino ethnic groups resulted in the development of a unique dialect, "Chavacano", a pidgin tongue that marries Malay and Spanish. Linguists say that it is 70 per cent Spanish, but Chavacano is not necessarily comprehensible to Spanish-speaking people.

In Zamboanga today, apart from the Badjao, or seagypsies, who live out on the water, the main Muslim areas are the Yakan and Taluksangay villages and Rio Hondo.

Six kilometres from the city is a small cluster of houses where members of the Yakan tribe show off their skills at weaving. They use hand looms in this painstaking craft and a meter of the striking multi-coloured material takes a month to finish. The tribe uses this Yakan weave for their distinctive costumes, and they make headbands, sashes and bags in this cloth for sale at the Zamboanga Barter Market. The only disappointment is that mercerized cotton yarn is now used instead of the Chinese silk that once came in on the junks bringing goods for the Spanish galleon trade.

Red minarets tower over the rooftops of Taluksangay, which is home to 800 Muslim families. The village, founded in 1885 by Hadji Abdullah Nono Maas, lies on a small island fronting Saco Island. A Filipino-Japanese venture in a cultured pearl farm produces pearls, considered to be of a finer texture and better quality than any produced abroad.

Apart from pearling, the

villagers, who belong to the Samal tribe, engage in fishing and firewood-gathering from the vast swamplands of Saco Island. The wood called baccuan is exported to Japan where it is in big demand.

For the Badjao, the sea gypsies, their lepa, or houseboat, is their home. Fishing and shell-collecting are their livelihood and they anchor near markets to sell their catch. The Badjao family is extremely close-knit. Birth in the boat is assisted by the husband. He is the administrator and also does the heavy work like cleaning and drying the boat once a month, while the wife takes care of the cooking and daily cleaning and disciplining of the children. Badjao can be found selling their colorful wares, including huge black and red corals, shells and miniature vinta boats, complete with varicolored sails, beside the sea wall of the Lantaka Hotel.

Rio Hondo, another Muslim enclave, teems with 9,000 inhabitants who live in stilt houses over the shallow waters of a former mangrove swamp. The campo Muslim sector of the village can easily be located by its beautiful painted white mosque with towering silver-domed minarets, considered to be the most imposing temple of worship in the region.

The village is inhabited by Samal who specialize in fishing, mat-weaving and trading. In the public market, they control the sale of fish, including shrimps, lobsters, clams and that Zamboangan specialty curacha, and exotic fruits such as lanzones, durian, mangosteen, marang and mangoes. More interesting is the Samal involvement in the barter trade between Zamboanga, Sulu and the seaports of Borneo, Malaysia and Indonesia.

This mode of trading, which is still very much alive today, was introduced by the Spanish who did not relish bringing in silver since there was never any assurance that their vessels would not be attacked by pirates somewhere on the high seas. They taught the Samal how to barter instead and a bolt of Chinese silk would be exchanged for a few arroba of birds' nest instead of using the scarce Spanish silver coins.

Now there is a continuing barter trade that makes Zamboanga one of the cheapest places to shop in the Philippines. The trade, however, is mostly from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Once in a while there is a bargain in batik or enough cloth for a malong, the wraparound garment that women wear. From the Muslim artisans there are brassware, gongs, rice pots and water containers together with Qurans, beads, prayer mats and other items of Islamic religious art.

The Muslim of Zamboanga are generally short and slim, almost slight. Most are brown-skinned, almost chinky-eyed, and nearly all have high and prominent cheek bones. If there is a distinctive look to the Moro, it is in the eyes and the cheekbones which, together, give the impression of real or imagined aloofness.

The basic items of dress for women are the tube skirt, and a blouse with long, tight sleeves. The tube skirt is called malong and the simplest is a shop-bought swath of cotton, the most elaborate is woven of silk and decorated with symbolic designs. The malong is sometimes worn by men and boys, but the standard male dress is pants, either loose and flapping like a skirt or tight and wound in folds around the loins.



A mosque in Zamboanga, Mindanao — The spirit of Islam prevails in this southern isle of the Philippines.

Sometimes the men also wear short open jackets with tight sleeves. Most of the men wear headaddresses, a kerkchief, a Turkish fez, a Malay kopia, which looks like an Army cap, or the white turban of the hadji who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Like their Christian brothers, the Muslim Tausug and Samal tribes entertain with lavish feasts. Festivities and religious occasions centre around food, for hospitality is gauged by the amount and type of food served. It is not unusual for a

sultan's daughter's wedding to feature six or seven cows, several hundred chickens and boatloads of fish in the many days of feasting. The biggest spread of all, however, is during Ramadan, the 30-day fasting period which culminates in the Hari Raya Posaa, the most important Muslim holiday. Certain foods are served only during Ramadan. One of them is sabaw maymuh, or sweet soup, consisting of thick coconut milk, sugar and egg yolk. This soup is traditionally taken just before



The Badjao, the sea Gypsies, survive on fishing and shell-collecting for their livelihood.

By Roger Browning

Skiing in the vale of the flowers

ON THE FACE of it, Gulmarg in Kashmir has everything — almost guaranteed snow, a superb setting, lifts, and good food. But this picturesque village in the Himalayas has a long way to go to catch up with the world's leading resorts.

It lacks organisation, and does not quite make up for it in the charm. And because India is a long way to go just to ski, a trip to Gulmarg might best be thought of as a cooling break from the rigours of a sight-seeing trip already planned.

The slightly haphazard nature of the place has its advantages. Nobody will sneer at you if you do not have the latest French ski wear and it is a relief to be able to ski in any sensible clothing you want. The Indians ski in whatever comes to hand. Sikhs find their turbans make good crash helmets.

On a recent visit, we saw one young Indian, urged on by his father, making regular short jumps that swept his raincoat out behind and dislodged his wide brimmed felt hat. Young Kashmiris can be seen skiing with ancient equipment poking out from under the tent-like cloaks that all Kashmiris wear in winter.

In any case, getting your own skiing equipment to India might prove tricky. Anything you can take, though, would be gratefully received by the locals. We found that the gift of a couple of pairs of French ski sun glasses to skiing officials made us popular, and we were constantly asked if we would sell our anoraks.

Accommodation is limited and, with few exceptions, spartan. One hotel we tried had a long-frozen toilet and a single bar electric fire. We were the only guests and fled next morning. The preferred hotel to stay in is the Highland Park, which has stunning views from an upstairs bar. Accommodation is in private cabins with wood-burning stoves, or bukari, and standards are high. Other hotels are mostly close in winter. We found Ahdoos Hotel, also known as Yemberzal, just about adequate and much cheaper than the Highland.

Gulmarg in Kashmir

Gulmarg is only 51 kilometres from Srinagar, the capital, but getting there can prove difficult. A bus runs most of the way, to Tangmarg,

but from there jeeps may or may not be running. The only alternative is a pony, not much of a choice if it happens to be snowing heavily. We chose to stay overnight in a tourist bungalow. It would have been acceptable except that I nearly electrocuted myself on the water heater and we were kept awake by mice gnawing the skirting boards.

Once in Gulmarg, we got straight on with the skiing. There are no long walks to find equipment, or get to lifts. In a small hut at the bottom of the nursery slopes are skis, boots, gloves, and clothing for hire at a few rupees a day. But there are no machines to test bindings and it would be as well to learn how to do this yourself. Medical facilities in Gulmarg itself are primitive.

There are several small lifts and a 2 km chairlift. A cable car is planned to Khilanmarg at 11,000 feet, whence there is a natural run down to Gulmarg. Lift charges are low. Locals also talk of superb off piste and glacier skiing, but getting this organised might prove difficult.

Despite its drawbacks, Gul-

marg (which means Valley of the Flowers), offers adequate skiing to beginners or moderates, in an exotic location near some of the world's highest mountains. It is easy to see its potential, but development is slow and several schemes have foundered. Gulmarg has been a resort for the British since around the turn of the century when they laid out what is claimed to be the world's highest green golf course. In winter, it serves as a ski training ground for Indian soldiers.

Gulmarg now attracts 5,000 to 6,000 skiers a season. Many are young beginners who stay in tourist bungalows offering special group rates that include board, skis, instruction, lifts and clothing. These are run by the tourism department and subsidised by the Government. The ski season is mid-December to March, sometimes into April. Gulmarg also offers skating, tobogganing, trekking, riding, and fishing. A ski holiday could be combined with a stay on a houseboat in Srinagar. With hard bargaining, the good values are particularly good value off-season, with plenty of choice.



A young woman with her child in the Plaza de Armas in Cuzco, Peru.

Navel of the world

Once the centre of the mighty Inca empire Cuzco, in Peru, is a beautiful but solemn and poignant city, populated by villagers who sell their handicrafts to a dwindling number of tourists. Yet amid the poverty, the ageless majesty of the Incas echoes off the cobblestones.

By Kristin Helmore

CUZCO, Peru: From the plane you can see the blessing of these bright green hills — emerald under a cobalt sky gleaming with fat, white clouds.

The ancient city is a maze of red-tile roofs, nestling in the folds of the mountains. The air is sharp and cool in Cuzco, near freezing at night. The sun can be very hot, and in the afternoon it's liable to rain for half an hour without warning, only to dry up quickly in the piercing sunshine.

Cuzco is beautiful, but it's a solemn, poignant city, too. It's a city of the poor who come in from hungry villages, hoping to sell their handicrafts to a dwindling number of tourists. Yet amid the poverty, the ageless majesty of the Incas echoes off the very cobblestones. Their presence is felt because they are literally still here. The little girl selling woven belts in the Plaza, the wizened old man in sandals with a load of potatoes on his back — most of the people one sees are direct descendants of those proud, brilliant rulers of the Andes.

Cuzco was founded in about 1100. Its name means "navel" in the Quechua language, and its builders must have thought it was the centre of the world. It was the centre of an empire that stretched from present-day

Colombia in the north. The empire was at its height in 1533 when Francisco Pizarro arrived in Cuzco and sacked it, putting an end to the Incas' sovereignty and claiming their territory for Spain.

In spite of centuries of construction in baroque-colonial Spanish style, and two devastating earthquakes, the massive stone foundations of Inca palaces are still visible at the base of many buildings. No mortar was used between these giant blocks; they fitted together with mathematical precision. This people's command of technology enabled them to hoist huge stones up a 2,000-foot peak at Machu Picchu 50 miles away, creating a fortified city the Spaniards never conquered.

Today the look of Cuzco is romantically Spanish-colonial. High succeeded walls hung with carved wooden balconies line the narrow, cobbled streets. Arcaded loggias provide shade along the large square Plaza de Armas. Baroque churches abound: Cuzco has more religious buildings than any other city in Latin America because, say historians, the Spanish were so intent on replacing the religion of the Incas with their own.

Sit on a bench in the cool air and hot sun of the Plaza de Armas. In no time you will be

surrounded by people, many of them children, all of them trying — at first gently, soon more desperately — to sell you something. Women and girls wear the traditional full skirts of brightly coloured wool. Babies are strapped on their backs with finely woven shawls striped in electric colours. On their heads, atop shining black braids, sit the somber bowler hats characteristic of Andean women.

They speak in soft voices, with flowery politeness, yet their Spanish is imperfect and heavily accented. Among themselves they speak Quechua: Fluent Spanish is a privilege of the educated, the urbanised, the elite.

Cuzco is at its saddest late at night, when old women huddle in the narrow streets beside tiny stoves on which corn is roasting. They are nodding off, but they don't go home because they need to sell their corn.

Under the loggia of the plaza, a small child stares into the darkness, rocking her baby brother in her lap. In front of her on a cloth is a neat display of knitted goods, small clay pots, and wooden Andean flutes. No one has bought anything for hours. It is very cold, and she is having trouble staying awake. 1967, The Christian Science Monitor.

LISBON is cobblestones, red-tiled roofs, and songs of unrequited love.

Screaming trolleys snake over seven seaside hills that rise above the confluence of the broad Tagus River and the North Atlantic. The outstretched arms of "Christ the King" — the 762-foot signature statue of Lisbon — embrace the horizon from high on the opposite bank. The sounds of ducks and dogs in the street mingle with the cry of "morangos" (strawberries) along Avenida da Liberdade, Lisbon's Champs Elysee. And Lisbon's charm is that it feels like the Europe of 50 years ago, but doesn't have the self-consciousness to either hype or bemoan that fact. Separateness and belatedness are part of what the city is all about. It is the very sting of separation from the continent — blocked by both Spain and the Pyrenees — that is the most telling fact of history for both Portugal and its capital. Facing only the sea, this is the same city that launched explorers in the 15th and 16th century — Prince Henry

Lisbon: best bargain in Europe

the Navigator and Vasco de Gama among them — when the country was one of the mightiest on earth.

But Lisbon is now the capital of the poorest country in Europe. And it is just this melding of past glory and modern exclusion that make for a visit beyond the prosaic to the poetic.

Part of Lisbon's demise was in 600 years' accumulation of wealth from the Age of Discovery which was swallowed by an earthquake in 1755. The quake leveled 9,000 buildings, 42 palaces, and untold numbers of monasteries and churches. The result for the modern visitor is a city most of which is less than 200 years old. The downtown area, known as the Baixa, is now straight and gridlike, following the plan of Marques de Pombal, is now straight and gridlike, following the plan of Marques de Pombal, who studied London's reconstruction after the great fire there in 1666.

The visitor is encouraged to gain the large view by hired car, then begin on foot for a host of spontaneous surprises. Streetside cafes and pastelerias (pastry shops) abound next

to flower-lined boulevards dominated by squeaking and sputtering cabs that give the cheapest rides — about \$2 to anywhere in town — in Europe. Lisbon is one of the best bargains in Europe as well, with a collar going further in the purchase of food accommodations, crystal, silver and gold than any other European capital.

Fountains, parks, and patterned mosaic sidewalks of white limestone and black basalt are the other tell-tale Lisbon features. While most of the downtown is 18th and 19th century, there are still some of the older monuments standing to be discovered.

The area of town that all the guidebooks point you toward is the Alfama, once described by local author Alexandre Herculano: "A labyrinth, confused, heaped up multicolored, and re-twisted — an ant hill of souls." Balconies, archways, terraces, and courtyards dominate this section, originally a Visigothic settlement, then a fashionable Saracen enclave, now a noisy and popular ghetto. Says one guide: "It would be absurd to suggest an itinerary for the Alfama, since you'll

get lost no matter what you do."

We came into Lisbon by car across the majestic April 25 Bridge, which gives probably the best view of the area, save the Castelo de Sao Jorge (St Georges Castle). Visit the latter for the best view from high of Alfama. There was an elaborate palace built by the Moors on this site, but now only ramparts linking 10 crenelated towers among pine, cypress, oleander, and orange trees.

After winding down and through Alfama, visitors are urged to see Se, Lisbon's cathedral, so named after the Latin words sedes, for seat. From there to the National Museum of Ancient Art, called alternately a "sleeper" and a "must" by guidebooks. That "must see" is the polypych, St Vincent, by Nuno Goncalves — an epic of 16th-century Portuguese life, 60 portraits in all, from saint to fisherman.

The other sleeper in Lisbon, is the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Museum. Periodic theater, dance, and symphony are performed in the foundation's outdoor amphitheater amid rustic surroundings of gurgling brooks,

bridge-covered ponds, and roaming peacocks. Inside the museum is the collection of one of the richest men who ever lived. Highlights are carpets from ancient Persia, tomb figures from Egypt, art nouveau jewelry by Lalique, and 16th-century wall tapestries.

Sights Our stay took in all these sights more than three days, though most guidebooks say a one or two-day stay is plenty. Other points to include in town are the Jeronimos Monastery (considered one of the finest examples of intricately carved cloisters in the Manueline style); the 16th-century fortress Belem Tower (both Gothic and Renaissance in style at water's edge); and Black Horse Square, which is spread before the harbor, busy with passing tankers. And it is the streets in the central city, around Rossio Square and the Chiado where most of the best shopping is. We found extraordinary values in crystal and silver tea sets. Nineteen-carat gold jewelry is also one of the unique items to be found in Lisbon. And the city is known for Madeira embroideries, organ dies and tapestries, ceramics, and porcelains.

1987, The Christian Science Monitor.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Hong Kong official insists on currency's link to dollar

HONG KONG, Dec 25, (AP): Financial Secretary Piers Jacobs reiterated yesterday Hong Kong's refusal to alter the link between its currency and the US dollar, despite calls for adjustment from major industrialised nations.

"A stable exchange rate is of enormous importance to Hong Kong in the coming years," Jacobs, the British colony's top financial official, told a press conference.

The Group of Seven major industrialised nations (G-7) yesterday called on "some newly industrialised economies" to allow their currencies appreciate, which would tend to reduce their trade surpluses. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) issued a similar call a day earlier.

Hong Kong is considered newly industrialised economy and the OECD estimated that the colony posted a current account surplus last year of \$1.6 billion.

But Hong Kong's Secretary for Monetary Affairs, David Nendick, told reporters on Wednesday that the OECD figure "should have the label of fiction rather than fact."

Deficit

He said he believed it was impossible to reckon the figure accurately, but that according to the government's best estimate, Hong Kong actually ran a small current account deficit last year.

Hong Kong governor Sir David Wilson criticised the OECD for lumping the colony together with other newly industrialised countries such as South Korea and Taiwan, which he said did run large trade surpluses.

The Hong Kong dollar, which has been pegged at 7.80 to \$1.00 since October 1983, stood at 7.765 in East Asian trading on Wednesday.

US Commerce Department to investigate oil imports

WASHINGTON, Dec 25, (Reuters): The US Commerce Department has accepted to study whether oil imports threaten the nation's security and should be controlled by a tariff, a leading US senator said today.

Lloyd Bensten, a Democrat from the leading oil-producing state of Texas, said the study would lay the ground for presidential action to control oil prices.

Reliance

A request for the study was first made this month by a group of independent US oil companies and trade associations in a petition to the Commerce Department.

Commerce Department officials were not immediately available to comment.

"I am deeply troubled by our burgeoning reliance on imported oil," said Bensten, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "In regard to oil imports, our country is playing with fire."

Bensten said almost 50 per cent of the oil now used in the United States was imported, compared with 32 per cent in 1985.

Under the law the department has up to one year to complete the investigation. Bensten's office said.

China's exports hit record in '87

BEIJING, Dec 25, (Reuters): China's exports had reached a record \$31.7 billion by the end of November, 29.9 per cent over the same period of 1986, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade said today.

The 1987 total was expected to be \$34 billion compared with 27 billion last year, the ministry said.

Surplus

The official People's Daily, reporting the figures, said that it was the first time that exports had passed the \$30 billion mark.

Imports were not mentioned but the ministry said that total two-way trade in the last 11 months of 1987 was \$58.3 billion implying a surplus of about \$5 billion.

With its currency pegged strictly but unofficially to the falling US dollar, China's exports have benefited this year, while its imports have been held down by tighter controls on foreign currency.

Scepticism grows over substance of G-7 currency pact

Move to stabilise dollar could falter quickly

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (AP): The latest international decree to stabilise the wobbly dollar may work for a while, but could collapse in a few weeks if the US trade deficit doesn't improve.

Economists and money traders said the statement released late Tuesday by seven major industrialised countries was a defensive tactic aimed at preventing a free-fall of the dollar.

Many said the statement from the Group of Seven contained little or no information that would alter the dollar's downward direction, except to imply strongly coordinated intervention in case of further drops.

Memory

In addition, the statement had been expected and came at year-end, when trading volumes are lightest. By the time normal trading resumes after Jan 1, the declaration may already be a faded, insignificant memory.

Moreover, signs of a troubled

US economy or another plunge in the stock market could unravel the presumed cooperation among the G-7 nations, just like it did when stock prices collapsed in October. Shortly thereafter, the US government strongly indicated it would not defend the dollar.

Scheduled

Of particular concern to economists is the Commerce Department's report of monthly trade deficits, an emotionally and politically charged event that is the most visible marker of America's declining economic might. It has been partly responsible for the dollar's erosion the past two years.

The Commerce Department's announcement of the trade figures for November is scheduled for Jan 15. Many economists regard this announcement as the first major test of the G-7 pledge to defend the dollar's value.

When the October trade

figures released Dec 10 showed a record \$17.6 billion shortfall, the dollar tumbled to record lows despite countermeasures by central banks.

A cheaper dollar theoretically helps US manufacturers by making their products more competitive abroad and raising the price of imports. But the US appetite for imports has swelled, and that could lead to higher inflation.

Although export sales have been rising, too, any new sign that the trade deficit is ballooning is bound to intensify congressional calls for protectionist legislation and send the dollar tumbling.

"The G-7 statement hasn't changed the fundamentals at all," said John O. Wilson, senior vice president and chief economist at Bank of America in San Francisco.

"It's a fairly innocuous statement, lacking substance, weaker than prior statements."

There wasn't even the usual commitment to reference zones to keep the dollar at current levels," Wilson said. "It was more of a defensive move. The G-7 ministers bought themselves time, that's what they were doing."

Judging by the immediate market reaction, the statement helped. The dollar stabilised, stocks rallied, bond prices rose and interest rates fell.

But many economists said the slow holiday trading made it difficult to conclude that the G-7 statement was the cause of the dollar's stability.

Insufficient

"The first major test will come in January," said Varick Martin, vice president of foreign exchange at the Union Bank of Switzerland's New York branch.

"There's really no market now. Only 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the market is in. That's insufficient to tell you what the direction is."

Some economists were reluctant to rule out the possibility that the G-7 statement would have a powerful, long-lasting effect.

They argued that it came against a background of efforts by Japan and West Germany to stimulate demand for imports in their export-oriented economies, as well as a new fiscal 1988 US budget that fulfilled the government's pledge to cut the deficit by \$76 billion.

If these developments represent the beginnings of a fundamental shift in the global economic equation, then the dollar could steady and even rise significantly.

Maury Harris, chief economist at the New York investment firm PaineWebber Inc., said that if the trade figures released next month show improvement, the G-7 statement will be taken more seriously.

"This can work if the trade deficit comes down, as I expect it will," he said.

Japan no longer sees weak dollar spelling doom

TOKYO, Dec 25, (Reuters): A surprise upturn for the Japanese economy has nearly quelled cries of despair over the dollar's fall as Japan no longer sees the stronger yen spelling doom.

"People had been convinced Japan's economy would be hard hit from the high yen, but growth has been remarkable," said Takashi Kiuchi, senior economist of Long-term Bank of Japan.

Japan is still concerned about the weakening dollar but no longer sees its decline portending a great disaster. Bank of Tokyo chairman Yusuke Kashiwagi told foreign journalists last week.

Growth

The Japanese public and business leaders have been reassured by the nation's strong economic growth, and the declining dollar is not the key topic of their conversation any longer, Kashiwagi said.

In Europe, where business still remains sluggish, worries over a further dollar slide seem much

more acute, he said.

European stock markets were hit much harder than the Tokyo market in mid-October and Europeans tend to view the outlook for a business recovery more in terms of the exchange rate, one bank economist said.

US officials have said they do not want a lower dollar, neither have they clearly called for a halt in its slide. Though the dollar has fallen sharply, the US trade deficit has still not narrowed as hoped.

The weaker dollar has made Japanese goods less competitive in the American market, but other Asian countries have secured the business Japan lost.

"American people seem to believe that the dollar should be just going down," said Soichi Hirabayashi, deputy general manager of Fujitsu Ltd's treasury division.

The dollar, which already has lost half its value since major industrial nations agreed in September 1985 to allow its fall, now trades at around 126.50 yen and threatens to tumble even further, foreign exchange dealers said.

Some dealers said they see 120 yen just around the corner and 115 yen or lower by early next year.

Fall

Over the past two years Japan had predicted the dollar's fall would lead to disaster, as its exporters, the then powerhouse of its economy, became unable to compete in overseas markets.

But contrary to expectations, Japan's consumer and business demand at home for goods and services exploded and gross national product (GNP) surged a surprising inflation adjusted 2.2 per cent in the July-September quarter from the previous quarter.

The second quarter had showed no growth.

Though the weak dollar put strains on exporters, the strong yen also accelerated internal

growth by reducing costs of imported basic materials at a time when consumers and businesses started spending more. The economy was further helped by an injection of government funds.

A boom in construction of housing and offices has been the driving force for the new economic activity but that should shift more to corporate spending, economists said.

Corporations are firing up their production lines as Japanese consumers buy more, they added.

The expansion of the economy should also allow exporters to become more dependent on the home market, said Susumu Taketomi, senior economist for Industrial Bank of Japan.

The Japanese government now officially sees GNP in the next financial year from April to be a remarkable 3.8 per cent against nearly the same 3.7 per cent this year.

South Korea reports reduced trade deficit with Japan

SEOUL, Dec 25, (AP): South Korea's November trade deficit with Japan shrank to \$346 million down from \$378 million in the same month last year, the Korea Foreign Trade Association reported yesterday.

It was the fourth consecutive month Korea's trade deficit with Japan declined compared to the same period a year ago.

Officials said that Korea between January and November ran a trade deficit of \$4.82 billion with Japan, down \$70 million from the same period last year.

Korea, however, posted a trade surplus of \$5.52 billion worldwide in the first 11 months of this year, according to a recent government report.

The ministry officials said that Korean exports to Japan in November jumped 62.1 per cent to \$905 million and imports from Japan rose 33.6 per cent to \$1.25 billion.

Korean exports to Japan between January and November soared 53.4 per cent to \$7.48 billion from the same period last year, while imports rose 25.9 per cent to \$12.3 billion.

Economic growth slows

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec 25, (AP): Economic growth in the heavily-indebted Latin American nations slowed down in 1987, while inflation increased steeply, a United Nations agency reported yesterday.

The burden of a \$410-billion foreign debt was a major factor in the worsening of the regional economic crisis, according to the year-end report issued by the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America.

The region's combined Gross National Product rose by 2.6 per cent in 1987, compared to 3.6 a year earlier, the Santiago-based commission said.

The year's global rate of inflation jumped to 195 per cent from 65 per cent in 1986, the commission said. Thirteen of the region's 21 nations faced serious inflation problems, according to the report, issued by executive secretary Norberto Gonzalez.

Payments

The balance of payments improved, with an overall trade surplus of \$23 billion, the report said. It noted, however, that the surplus was concentrated in a small number of nations, especially Paraguay, Mexico, Chile, Venezuela and Brazil.

The region's foreign debt grew slowly, and continued to play a major role in the worsening of the general economic situation, according to the report.

"Unless a substantial improvement occurs in the evolution of world trade, which seems unlikely, a major change in the approach to Latin America's debt is required if the region is to resume economic growth," it said.

Gas sales

ALGIERS, Dec 25, (Opecna): Algeria resumed gas sales on Sunday to the United States from its Arzew Field, east of here.

According to the Algerian news agency, a contract was signed recently between the Algerian state national oil company (Sonatrach) and the US Cabot Consortium.

Algeria, the world's fourth largest gas producer after the Soviet Union, Holland and Canada, produced 40 billion cu. metres of gas last year, of which 25 billion cu. metres was exported.

With natural gas reserves of three trillion cu. metres, most of Algerian production comes from Hassi R'Mel, one of the world's largest gasfields.

China reports first trade surplus in four years

BEIJING, Dec 25, (AP): China in 1987 achieved its first trade surplus in four years due to a crackdown on imports and new incentives to companies to export their products, the trade minister said today.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted Zheng Tuobin, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, as estimating China exported \$34 billion worth of goods for the year and imported \$30 billion worth.

Exports from January through November were up more than 14 per cent over the same period of 1986, he said, while imports fell slightly.

Surplus

In 1986, China had a trade deficit of \$5.7 billion. It last enjoyed a surplus in 1983.

For most of the nearly four decades of Communist rule, China has maintained trade surpluses due to strict central controls over the economy. However, the emphasis in recent years on catching up with the

developed world has led to heavy imports of modern machinery and technology, while world prices for China's traditional exports of raw materials have fallen.

Zheng was quoted as saying much of the growth in exports has been in finished products, with overseas sales of machinery and electrical products up more than 48 per cent over last year.

Exports

He said China narrowed its deficit with its No. 1 trade partner, Japan, and ran a surplus in trade with the United States. Exports to Japan rose to \$5.4 billion and those to the United States reached \$2.6 billion. He did not give import figures.

The United States is China's third largest trade partner, after Japan and Hong Kong.

China's bilateral trade statistics do not include goods shipped to third countries via Hong Kong, and thus are lower than figures provided by its trade partners.

Despite the crash

Charities feel buddy can still spare a dime

LONDON, Dec 25, (Reuters): After the crash of 1929, people used to ask: "Buddy, can you spare a dime?"

So far, charities and foundations do not seem to be very worried by the crash of '87. They are pretty sure buddy can.

But some of the estimated \$2,000 billion of paper wealth that evaporated in the mid-October global markets crash was theirs. And some of it was money that potential donors might have given.

"We don't play the markets... but charities do get a lot of their income from investing, more than people generally realise," said Tony Higham, financial director of Britain's Charity Aid Foundation.

Charities and foundations are long-term investors, and they look at their holdings of shares just as they do their holdings of bonds or even their bank accounts—assessors of income.

Many of them got their portfolios very cheaply, indeed. Bequests can be an important source of assets for some, and many of the wealthiest foundations were set up as a way of

minimising tax payments or death duties.

It means that most charities and foundations don't aim to buy at the bottom and sell at the top. And that's a nice position to be in, after a stock market crash.

"While the drop in prices hits balance sheets, it by no means pushes us into any quick sales. I haven't heard of any charities in that position," Higham said.

His foundation is a sort of charity for charities. It passes on the income it earns on its investments for others to use.

Income

But the income that it and other foundations earn from their investments comes from dividends and interest payments and has little to do with the price at which dealers, speculators and investors are willing to buy or sell shares.

"We have no need to sell and are content just to sit on our holdings," he added.

The crash, however, has affected more than stock markets.

As shares slid, so did the dollar... it is down 11 to 12 per cent against other leading currencies. Those who raise or spend in currencies other than the dollar

can buy more for their money. But those who get or spend dollars may not be as lucky.

Richard Leakey, director of the National Museum of Kenya, famed for its research into the origins of man, will have to cut its operations next year, because 70 per cent of its budget comes from overseas grants of dollars.

Fossils

Among the projects that at issue are the digs in Kenya's northwestern Turkana district. Archaeologists hope fossils from the site will provide important information about early man.

But Leakey has faith in modern man and plans to raise funds locally.

"We're sending hundreds of letters to companies," he said. "There have been indications that the private sector is looking for worthwhile projects to fund."

But how generous will people be, when charitable foundations come asking for money?

A partner at the leading Boston law firm Bingham Dana and Gould, which represents a number of wealthy Massachusetts trusts, foundations and charities, is unsure.

"The crash has made people very worried. Consumer spending in Britain may be strong, but it's weak in the states. People are tightening their belts, and that's got to hit charity donating," he said.

The crash also means that bequests of shares will end up being worth less than either the donor or the recipient thought.

But, in the United States, the new tax code means donors will not get as big a tax break by giving funds to charity in 1988.

"There could be a bit of a last minute rush, to get the benefit while you still can," the lawyer said.

Donations to Oxfam, Britain's largest voluntary aid agency, has been unaffected by the crash, spokeswoman Ann Clark said.

Oxfam raises about 40 per cent of its £40 million (\$75 million) budget from donations and more than third by selling second-hand goods from 800 shops throughout Britain. It gets some government grants and bequests, too.

"I don't think the crash would affect the kind of people who give money to us," Clark said.

World Business Summary

MITI wants to discuss US semi-conductors

TOKYO, Dec 25, (AP): The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will ask for a meeting with US officials to discuss the semi-conductor trade and US tariffs remaining on Japanese products, a report said today. The main daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported that MITI hopes to meet with US trade representatives and members of the US Semi-conductor Industry Association early next year in Hawaii.

MITI hopes the meeting would result in the early lifting of the remaining portion of US penalty tariffs on Japanese electronic products. Officials of MITI declined to comment on the report. US President Ronald Reagan in April slapped \$300 million in tariffs on Japanese televisions, power tools and small computers for Japan's alleged violation of a 1986 semi-conductor trade pact. The tariffs were placed in retaliation for Japan's alleged refusal to stop flooding world markets with low-cost computer chips and to give non-Japanese manufacturers more access to the Japanese electronics markets. A total of \$135 millions of the trade sanctions have since been lifted because of Japanese progress toward compliance with the agreement, and following a US Commerce Department report that Japanese chip manufacturers had stopped "dumping," or selling chips at below fair market prices, on world markets. About \$165 million of the sanctions remain. Foreign semi-conductor chips account for 12.4 per cent of the Japanese market, according to Japanese statistics, and 10 per cent according to US accounts.

White House suspends duty-free trade status

WASHINGTON, Dec 25, (AP): The White House suspends duty-free trade status yesterday for nearly \$60 million of annual imports from Chile, citing its alleged suppression of free trade unions and other violations of internationally recognised workers rights. Deputy US Trade Representative Alan Holmer said Chile will be suspended from the US Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme 60 days after a proclamation signed by President Ronald Reagan is published in the Federal Register.

The proclamation will be published within a few days, US officials said. The officials said the arrest of several prominent Chilean labour leaders following a one-day national strike in October "suggested a retrogression in the workers rights climate in that country, rather than progress." Holmer said the terms of the suspension is indefinite. According to figures from the trade representative's office, the United States in 1986 imported \$59.4 million of duty-free goods from Chile — primarily plywood, fish, copper, sodium chloride, lithium compounds and assorted vegetables.

Under the GSP programme, instituted in 1976 and was renewed by Congress in 1984, some 3,000 products from 141 designated countries or territories get preferential duty-free entry to the United States. One of the conditions for participation is that beneficiary countries abide by several international workers rights formulated by the international Labour Organisation, an arm of the United Nations. Those rights include prohibitions against child labour and recognition of free association and collective bargaining.

China agrees loans to Sudan

BEIJING, Dec 25, (Reuters): China said yesterday it had granted a loan to Sudan, at the end of a visit by Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi in which the African leader confirmed that Beijing was supplying Sudan with arms. Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Zheng Tuobin signed the loan agreement with Sudanese Minister of Trade Ibrahim Hassan Abdal Galil in Beijing yesterday, the New China News Agency said. The two countries also agreed on a trade protocol for 1988 and a cultural co-operation plan, the agency added without giving details.

Mahdi told reporters yesterday there was a "limited, on-going programme" on arms sales by China to Sudan. The weapons were used for defensive purposes by Sudan, which is fighting against rebels in the south of the country, he said. Sudan and Ethiopia had agreed to resolve their differences, Mahdi added. China has friendly relations with Ethiopia. Mahdi said he had discussed with Chinese leaders the two countries' policies towards supporting different liberation movements in Africa and the Middle East.

A SPECIAL SURVEY ON JAPAN

During the third week of January, 1988, Arab Times will publish a special survey on Japan during Japan Week in Kuwait

Subjects to be covered in this prestigious survey include:

1. Japan economic outlook.
2. Trade and Industry (Public and Joint sectors).
3. Technology.

Prospective advertisers are requested to book advertising space early to avoid disappointments.

For more information contact:
Mr. M. C. Bose, Business Editor, Tel. 4813566 Extn. 276 between 3 and 8pm or
Mr. Dean Edwards, 4816396/7 between 9am and 1pm and 4-30 and 8-30pm.

شركة البترول الوطنية الكويتية ش.م.ك.
KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY K.S.C.

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Tender No.	Material	Tender Fees	Issuing Date	Closing Date
7/674 K	Steel Shapes	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	22.2.1988
7/696 K	Toilets	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	22.2.1988
7/119 L	Pipe Fittings	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	22.2.1988
7/153 L	Carbon Steel Pipe & Flange	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	22.2.1988
7/312 L	Ethylene Dichloride	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	22.2.1988
7/383 L	Pipes	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	29.2.1988
7/388 L	Pipes Tubes for Heat Exchanger	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	29.2.1988
7/390 L	U-Tubes sets for heat Exchangers	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	29.2.1988
7/515 L	Carbon Steel Plate	KD 2/-	4.1.1988	29.2.1988

Tender Documents can be purchased from the office of the HPPC Secretary at KNPC Head Office at 1st Floor, Room No. 57 as from: 4.1.1988.

فكرنا مع الأهل

CURRENCY & BUSINESS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1987

Dollar plunges to record low

TOKYO, Dec 25, (AP): The US dollar plunged to a record low on the Tokyo foreign exchange market today, closing the week at 125.20 yen, while stock prices closed lower after failing to recover from morning losses.

The dollar's closing was 1.45 yen lower than yesterday's finish of 126.65 yen. Its previous record low was reached last Friday, when the dollar closed at 126.45 yen.

After opening at 125.95 yen, the dollar ranged between 126.00 yen, the day's high, and 125.10 yen, the US currency's lowest point in Tokyo since modern exchange rates were established in the late 1940s.

Traders said the dollar's plunge reflected market leanings toward further declines in the value of the US currency against the Japanese yen.

Despite a recent joint statement by the Group of Seven (G-7) major monetary nations, there still remains a persistent and strong sentiment in the market that the US government was allowing the dollar to slip further.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the 225-share Nikkei stock average slipped after a slight recovery in the afternoon to finish trading at 22,120.94.

down 422.43 points. In the morning, the market's key barometer shed 525.79 points.

The stock market turned bearish in the afternoon because of the dollar's renewed decline against the yen, said Toshiaki Yamanaoka of Nomura Securities.

Recovered
"Time was running out before the market recovered ground lost in morning session," Yamanaoka said.

A total of 550 million shares were traded on the Tokyo's Stock Exchange's major first section.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will be closed between Dec 29 and Jan 3 for New Year's holidays. The foreign exchange will be closed Jan 1-3.

Meanwhile, the Asahi Evening News, an independent English-language newspaper said in its editorial that "the signing of America's deficit-reducing legislation by President Reagan has put the dollar issue on the back burner, at least for the time being."

But considering the sheer volume of the US deficit, the budget-tightening package is decidedly inadequate.

overseas, continues to weaken the dollar's footing.

"Thirty-three leading economists of the world recently proposed measures the US government should take to avert a global economic crisis. They urged the Americans to cut their expenditures — including military spending — drastically and revise their tax system so that people will save and invest more and spend less. But unfortunately, it seems that these perfectly sound suggestions ... have fallen on deaf ears in US government and congressional circles."

"If the United States is genuinely interested in revitalising the dollar, there is no reason why it cannot consider issuing so-called Reagan bonds. With these bonds, it will be the US government that will bear the exchange losses, not overseas investors, whenever the dollar takes a plunge in the world money market."

Bonds
"During the dollar crisis of the autumn of 1978, Jimmy Carter issued bonds of this kind and used them to fund US intervention in the foreign exchange market. The effort paid off. But Reagan is reluctant to do the same, apparently because he believes such a move will make America look weak in the eyes of the world as well as the nation."

"The stock market crash of October was a warning to everyone that a dollar crisis is approaching, is one warning never enough."

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE	STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
TOK NEW IX	807.52	819.23	NAKITA EL	1600	1630
CHUGAI MHS	1450	1490	NITSUKOSHI	1480	1480
AJINOMOTO	3180	3220	MARUI	2880	2930
CITIZEN W	512	508	NITSUMI EL	1030	1050
AKAI ELEC	425	425	MATSUTA EI	2150	2230
DAICEL	737	769	NICHICON	1250	1260
DAI NIP TO	949	974	MATSUTA EL	2100	2110
ASAHI GAS	1720	1790	MEIJI SEIK	936	941
DAI NIP IK	719	740	NIPKO SEC	1340	1410
ASAHI OPT	537	545	MITSUB CP	980	985
DAI NIP FT	2280	2340	NIP ELEC	1900	1990
BANK TOKYO	1310	1350	PIIONEER	2760	2760
DAI NIP SC	821	844	NIP KKOKAN	278	291
BRIDGESTON	1190	1210	RENOMAN	780	790
D-ICHI KAN	2750	2830	NIP OIL	1060	1080
CANON	935	960	RICON	1150	1180
DAISHA H	1630	1670	NIP STEEL	377	394
CASIO COMP	1130	1170	SANKYO	1680	1690
DATAM SEC	1680	1750	NIP YUSEN	496	510
EBRA MFG	742	755	SANYO ELEC	420	432
ITO YOKADO	3800	3810	NIS MOTOR	730	740
EISAI	2060	2070	SEIYU ST	1570	1630
JAPAN AIR	12800	13500	NOHARA SEC	2710	2800
FUJI BANK	3070	3100	SEKISUI PB	1590	1670
JAPAN MET	611	625	OMEGA CO	956	980
FUJI PHOTO	4040	4130	SHARP	956	950
JAP SYN RU	1030	1060	OLYMPUS	960	965
FUJITA CP	660	676	SHITSEIDO	1380	1450
KAJIMA	1440	1470	PENTA OCN	770	810
FUJISAWA	1830	1850	SONY	4790	4870
KANSAI EL	2630	2760	SUMITOMO	916	936
FUITSU	1150	1180	TOSHIBA EL	591	600
KAO SOAP	1880	1860	TAISEI	865	885
HITACHI	1160	1230	TOTO	1990	2010
KAWASAKI H	250	251	TAISHO MRK	970	999
HONDA MOT	1300	1340	TOYO KKOY	398	400
KAWASAKI S	314	333	TAKEDA CH	2940	3040
ISSETAN	1330	1350	TOYOTA MOT	1850	1890
KIRIN BEV	2030	2090	TEIJI	730	749
MITSUB EL	526	534	YAMATCHI	1320	1420
KOMATSU	597	615	TOKYO ELEC	1070	1100
MITSUB EST	1710	1820	YAMAMUCHI	3870	3880
KUBOTA LTD	533	538	TOKYO GAS	880	905
MITSUB HVY	546	560	YAMASA	870	900
KYOCERA	5500	5550	TOKIO HRN	1780	1800
NITSUI CO	689	665	YAMAZAKI	1380	1420
			TOKYO POWR	5350	5700
			TORAY IND	718	731

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS END DOWN BUT OFF LOWS IN MODEST TRADE
TOKYO, DEC 25 - SHARE PRICES FELL IN MODERATE TRADING, BUT ENDED ABOVE THEIR LOWS DUE TO AFTERNOON BLUE CHIP BUYING, BROKERS SAID.

THE WEAKER DOLLAR AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BECAUSE OF THE HUGE U.S. BUDGET AND TRADE DEFICITS PROMPTED SELLING, THEY SAID.

THE NIKKEI AVERAGE FELL 422.43 POINTS, OR 1.87 PCT, TO 22,120.94 AFTER HITTING A MORNING LOW OF 21,987.87. THE INDEX DROPPED 150.48 POINTS ON THURSDAY.

DECLINES LED ADVANCES ALMOST FOUR TO ONE ON TURNOVER OF 550 MLN SHARES AGAINST 400 MLN ON THURSDAY.

TODAY'S FALL IS THE BIGGEST SINCE NOVEMBER 10. SECURITIES HOUSE, COMMUNICATIONS, BANK, REAL ESTATE, PHARMACEUTICAL, AIRLINE, RAILWAY/BUS, INSURANCE, SERVICE AND CONSTRUCTION SHARES DECLINED. NO SECTORS ADVANCED.

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS, MONEY TRUSTS AND CORPORATIONS WHO WANTED TO LOCK IN GAINS PRIOR TO THE NEW YEAR SOLD PRIMARILY LARGE CAPITAL AND DOMESTIC DEMAND-RELATED STOCK, BROKERS SAID.

"PEOPLE ARE DOING A BIT OF WINDOW-DRESSING," A BROKER SAID. "IT'S TO BE EXPECTED AT THE END OF A YEAR."

NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE (NTT) LOST 700 YEN TO 12,800. UNSTABLE CURRENCY MARKETS AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE OUTLOOK FOR THE U.S. THIN DEFICITS HAS CREATED A MARKET ENVIRONMENT THAT IS UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE RECENT PUBLIC SALES OF NTT AND JAL SHARES, BROKERS SAID.

"THE TIMING IS BAD," A BROKER SAID. "IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE THE CRASH."

BROKERS SAID A HIGH PRICE EARNINGS RATIO FOR JAL SHARES MAY HAVE ALSO PROMPTED PROFIT-TAKING.

Nomura Securities

WEEKLY FORECAST WEEK OF DEC. 21 - 26
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONTINUES TO IMPROVE WITH OPEC OVERPRODUCTION ETC. CONTRIBUTING TO FALL IN OIL PRICES AND RELIEF OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. COUPLED WITH INTEREST RATE STABILIZATION, THIS HAS LEAD TO A STRONG YEN MARKET, TECHNICALLY CONFIRMED TO BE HEADED NORTHEAST BUT UP. THE HIGH YEN, WHICH SENT THE TOKYO MARKET DOWN EVEN AS NY WAS GAINING OVER 12 PCT, HAS TECHNICALLY PEAKED SO EXPECT A RETURN OF ENERGY IN THE TOKYO MKT. DETENTE AND U.S. MILITARY CUTBACKS ALSO ENCOURAGE. THE NIKKEI SHOULD CHALLENGE AND SURPASS THE 24000 YEN LEVEL OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

KD deposits hold at low levels

THE KUWAITI DINAR INTERBANK market remained highly liquid on Thursday, with one-month funds at their lowest level for 1987 and few banks actively trading as the year-end approaches.

The Central Bank was not reported in the market and dealers quoted tomorrow-next and spot-next maturities at a nominal two to one per cent. Period funds were also barely changed against Wednesday, with one-month at 3-1/2, three per cent, two-months at 4-1/4, 3-3/4, three months five, 4-1/2 and six-months 5-3/4, 1/4.

The Central Bank adjusted its discount rate softer to 0.27287/321 to the dollar from 0.27270/304 on Wednesday. Commercial banks quoted a spot rate of 0.27325/35.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal deposits were quietly steady on Thursday in a thin end-year market still awash with liquidity as fresh government payments entered the system.

Dealers said overnight funds, effectively Thursday and Saturday because of Friday's Gulf holiday weekend and the Christmas holiday overseas, traded as low as 1-3/4 per cent.

But traders expect riyal interest rates to firm in the New Year. Liquidity is usually high at the end of Saudi Arabia's financial year now based roughly on the Western calendar — as government departments rush to spend their full budget allocations. That spending is likely to dry up in January.

IBM changes direction in supercomputer design

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (AP): IBM's decision to plunge into development of a radical new computer design comes as President Ronald Reagan's administration plans a new push for research into the field of dramatically faster computers, according to a published report.

The New York Times in its Thursday edition said International Business Machines Corp. stunned the computer industry with its announcement on Tuesday that it planned to work on the relatively young computer design, known as parallel processing, which was routinely discounted as unworkable only a few years ago.

Parallel processing increases the speed of computers by going to work on complex problems with scores and sometimes as many as thousands of separate processors running simultaneously.

IBM had expressed little interest in the commercial possibilities of parallel processing until recently, viewing it as too expensive and too risky, the newspaper stated.

But now the Reagan administration has prepared a new initiative to encourage development of the technology, and IBM has shifted gears and expressed a renewed interest in parallel processing, the Times reported.

IBM, the world's biggest computer maker, announced Tuesday it was allying with one of the world's leading supercomputer designers, Steve S. Chen, and hoped to market a 64-processor machine in the 1990s.

Systems
Chen, the former head of advanced research for Minneapolis-based Cray Research Inc., formed Supercomputer Systems Inc. in October.

Under the terms of the preliminary agreement, IBM said it would provide initial funding to supercomputer systems, and the two companies would exchange technical information.

Images
The objective of the partnership will be to accelerate development of parallel supercomputers using IBM's strength in high-end technology and Chen's considerable expertise.

Supercomputers are used to quickly solve a wide variety of engineering and mathematical problems that would take ordinary computers weeks, months or years to work out.

The government uses the machines to make and break codes, identify images and targets from satellite photographs and solve major structural problems for programmes like the space shuttle.

The Times said it obtained a report prepared by William R. Graham, President Reagan's science adviser, calling for a number of federal agencies to promote research and development of high performance computer architecture, custom hardware, software and algorithms and networking technology, "all supported by a basic research foundation."

Graham's report also called for \$1.7 billion in federal spending for the project over five years, in addition to the \$500 million the government now spends annually on high performance computing, the newspaper reported.

Experts said IBM's entry into parallel processing could legitimise the technology in the eyes of investors and competitors, sparking a flood of research and development.

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Foreign Currency Selling Rates

Kuwait-India Int'l Exchange Co.	
Tel: 2423699-2423753 2422789-3917353	
Indian rupees	21.160
Sri Lankan rupees	09.010
US dollars	273.670
Pound sterling	500.250
UAE dirhams	74.600
Deutsche marks	167.850
Japanese yen	02.170

Indian Exchange Corporation W.L.L.	
Tel: 245310-2463312 Fahaneel 3933024-3918087 Farwaniya 4739665	
US dollars	273.670
Sterling	500.250
Swiss francs	208.850
Indian rupees	21.160
Sri Lankan rupees	9.010
Singapore dollars	137.850

Canara Exchange	
Tel: 2468462-3 2437295-2437300	
Indian rupees	21.160
Sri Lankan rupees	9.010
US dollars	273.670
Pound sterling	500.250
UAE dirhams	74.600
Philippine pesos	13.650

Kuwait Western Exchange Co.	
Tel: 2458165-166-167 5744157-5757163	
Indian rupees	21.160
Sterling	500.250
US dollars	273.670
Deutsche marks	168.000
Swiss francs	207.000
UAE dirhams	74.500
French francs	50.500
Jordanian dinars	810.000

Interest Rates	
FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait on Thursday:	
Period	Bid Offered
1 month	3 3-1/2
3 months	4-9/16 5-1/16
6 months	4-3/16 5-1/16
1 year	5-7/16 6

United Trading Group, Kuwait	
Tel: 2420115-2420116	
US dollars	273.550
Sterling	500.050
Cyprus pounds	611.850
Singapore dollar	137.650
Hong Kong dollar	36.100
Philippine peso	13.650
Lebanese pound	602.350
Australian dollar	195.900
Indian rupees	21.115

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 24.12.87			
B. No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
4	Shezan	Algh. Barber	4843988
6	Zarka	Al Qutub	4747815
9	Tug Salvanita	Gulf Star	4845501
	Barge Jubal		
10	Yujin	ISA	2441860
15	Tilia	Algh. Barber	4843988
18	Al Khaleej	Livestock	2434177

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
23/12	Barges	Al Qutub	4747815
23/12	Tug Gulf Express	Al Qutub	4747815
23/12	Kommeshima Maru	Al Bader	2433537
24/12	Pan Riser	Al Qutub	4747815
24/12	Ming Cheng	A. Bahar	2459891
24/12	Safer	Algh. Barber	4843988
25/12	Norasia Arabia	Emad	4841807
25/12	Cyprus	Al Qutub	4747815

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B. No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
12	Polydefkis	Bader	2433537
18	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
23/12	YS Prosperity	Rashed	2422016
26/12	Al Wajba	UASC	4843150
26/12	Alga	Al Qutub	4747815
31/12	Andrea Merzario	Kamal Shpg	2425437
4/1/88	Grace Liberty	Roger	2423642
7/1/88	Abu Basma		

COMPILED BY: Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. PO Box 21708, Safat Alghanim Industries Bldg. Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Phone 4843988/4842988 Extn 3628/3614.

Automobile exports drop

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

ACCOMMODATION

Available

KUWAIT City, Fahad Salem Street (near Meridian Hotel) with all facilities for Western, Filipino family or bachelors from 1st January, 1988. Tele. Mahmoud Abdurabou 2429490/1 from 7.30 am - 1.30 pm, 4.30 - 6.30 pm. (AT6-40198-3)

SALMIYA, furnished room for a bachelor or a single working girl - Indian/Pakistani. Tele. 5634802, after 3 pm. (AT6-40238-3)

KEIFAN, accommodation for bachelors or family. Contact Mr. Rao, House 41, Block 4, Ibn Hassan Street. (AT6-40234-3)

KUWAIT City, Fahad Salem Street (near Meridian Hotel) with all facilities for Western, Filipino family or bachelors from 1st January, 1988. Tele. Mahmoud Abdurabou, 2429490/1, from 7.30 am - 1.30 pm, 4.30 - 6.30 pm. (AT6-40198-3)

SALWA, House, 198, Block 7, (behind Iran Shop). Two rooms with kitchen, water and electricity, for family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD30. Tele. 5611243. (AT1-40354-6)

FARWANIYA, (behind Holiday Inn) Area 6, Bldg 80114, 4th floor, flat 14, opp. Lebanon Saloon, furnished room for 2 Indian working girls/bachelors to share with an Indian couple. Tele. 4710080. (AT1-40353-3)

KUWAIT City, (near Meridian Hotel) furnished room with tele for one working Indian girl to share with an Indian family. Tele. 2415470. (AT6-40227-3)

KUWAIT City, (behind Sheraton Hotel) Accommodation for 2 bachelors. Tele. Tony 2420399, 49/2423601. (AT1-40356-3)

FAIHA Area 3, House 5, Street 3, a large room with attached kitchen and separate bathroom for an Indian family. Reasonable rent. Tele Mrs. Fernandes, 2425855. (AT1-40352-3)

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SPORTS

NBA ROUNDUP

Tripucka takes Utah to win over Cleveland

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (AP) — Utah coach Frank Layden delivered a simple message to Kelly Tripucka.

"Hey, go for it," he said, and Tripucka made the most of a rare opportunity to play by sparking the Jazz to a 91-83 victory Wednesday night over Cleveland. Tripucka scored 13 of his 15 points in the final 5:33. There were no games yesterday.

There was another message inherent in what Layden said. If Tripucka plays well, he'll get more playing time.

"If teams were wondering if I could still play, maybe tonight proved I can," said Tripucka, former Detroit Pistons all-star who reportedly is on the trading block again. "I feel I don't have to prove anything because this is my seventh year, and I have five good ones behind me."

Utah ended a six-game road losing streak. The Jazz, who had lost four in a row, is just 2-11 on the road this season, but has won six in a row at Cleveland, which had a three-game winning streak broken.

Elsewhere, it was Golden State 129, Denver 117; Dallas 110, Indiana 109; Philadelphia 110, New Jersey 106; New York 90, Chicago 89; Seattle 103, Phoenix 102; San Antonio 111, Los Angeles Clippers 97, and Los Angeles Lakers 117, Sacramento 103.

In his second season with the Jazz, Tripucka had played only 168 minutes in Utah's 24 previous games.

"It's been very frustrating and stressful," Tripucka said. "Hopefully my situation will be worked out very soon."

Karl Malone scored 26 points for Utah, while Mark Price led Cleveland with 26.

Warriors 129, Nuggets 117. Tony White, a rookie guard, scored 15 of his career-high 21 points in the fourth quarter as Golden State held on to snap a five-game losing streak and knock the Nuggets out of first place in the Midwest Division.

The loss dropped the Nuggets a half game behind Dallas.

Terry Teague led eight Warriors in double figures with 23 points as Golden State won for only the fourth time in 22 games this season. The victory came after consecutive losses of 138-108 to Seattle and 136-91 to Portland and was Golden State's first victory since acquiring Ralph Sampson from Houston.

Sampson had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Mavericks 110, Pacers 109. Rolando Blackman hit two free throws with seven seconds left to give Dallas the lead, and Roy Tarpley blocked Wayman Tisdale's shot as time expired to preserve the victory.

Mark Aguirre led the Mavericks with 36 points, and Denek Harper had 16. Dallas led by as many as 17 points in the third quarter, but the Pacers tied the score 97-97 with 5:35 to play.

Chuck Person had 31 points and 17 rebounds for Indiana. Nets 110, Bulls 106.

Cliff Robinson and Charles Barkley combined for 11 of Philadelphia's final 15 points as the 76ers held off New Jersey. Robinson had a season-high 32 points and Barkley, despite a constant barrage of pushing and shoving that had him talking to himself on the court, had 31.

The Nets cut an eight-point lead to 95-93 with 4:34 to play before Robinson and Barkley went to work.

Pearl Washington scored 27 points for New Jersey.

Knicks 90, Bulls 89. Patrick Ewing drove the baseline with 15 seconds left, hitting a layup that gave the Knicks a one-point victory over Chicago. The Knicks held Michael Jordan, who came into the game with a league-leading average of 33.9 points, to just 16, matching his season low.

The pre-Christmas announcement on Wednesday night came as a shock to the country's sporting community but was welcomed by most Mexicans, who saw the race as a waste of money and exclusively for the "jet set."

The cancellation reflected Mexico's worst-ever economic crisis, with growing discontent

REID PULLS OUT OF AUSTRALIAN SQUAD

Kiwis need Crowe's return to form



Hadlee: needs 11 wickets to pass Botham's Test record

MELBOURNE, Dec 25, (Reuters) — New Zealand desperately need a return to form by captain Jeff Crowe if they are to stand any chance of squaring the series against Australia in the third and final Test starting tomorrow.

And his chance of improvement was boosted by the Christmas day news that Australian paceman Bruce Reid — who was declared fit on Thursday — had pulled himself out of the match after feeling more of the lower back pain which kept him out of most of the drawn second Test.

Crowe has scratched out just 47 runs in this series after efforts of 16, 12, 0 and 19 but he is determined to fight his way out of his slump. "I'm going through a bad trot and I've just got to keep working at it," he said.

Crowe fared no better in a one-day match against the Prime Minister's XI on Wednesday, making just six runs as his team won by 37 runs.

He will return to the number five position here after promoting himself to opener in the second Test in a vain attempt to do better. That resulted in scores of zero — out fourth ball — and 19.

Despite his own slump, Crowe was thinking positively about the match. "We are good enough to beat the Aussies and the win

against the Prime Minister's XI was a great boost," he said.

He added his team had received hundreds of telegrams of encouragement and seasons greetings — "all asking for a Christmas present of a Kiwi win."

Team manager Gern Alabaster said the Melbourne Cricket ground wicket looked like a good one for Richard Hadlee, who needs 11 wickets to pass England all-rounder Ian Botham's Test record of 373.

"The wicket looks very green, there's a lot of juice about and the conditions could be ideal for Hadlee if the current weather continues," he said.

The Australian Cricket Board flew paceman Mike Whitney — he had been on standby but was released yesterday — to Melbourne today to cover Reid's absence. But the selectors will keep Victorian Tony Doldor on standby as well and make a decision on which one comes into the team.

Australia's other injured paceman, Merv Hughes, passed a fitness test on his injured hamstring yesterday. A decision won't be made until tomorrow morning on whether a right arm or left arm will replace Reid.

Hughes has been sidelined

twice this season with hamstring problems and many are not convinced that he is fit to last a five day Test.

Skipper Allan Border relaxed on Christmas Day with his family in Sydney and was also in a positive mood.

"The way we are playing now is fitting into place with planning. We won't be taking a negative view, looking for a draw to win the series," he said.

Border is keen to go into the clash with three pacemen and two spinners in the attack, although that move would mean the exclusion of talented young batsman Mike Veletta.

"It would be a shame to let Veletta go when he deserves another chance with the bat," Border said.

Teams: Australia (from): Geoff Marsh, David Boon, Dean Jones, Allan Border (captain), Mike Veletta, Steve Waugh, Peter Sleep, Greg Dyer, Craig McDermott, Merv Hughes, Mike Whitney, Tim May, Tony Doldor.

New Zealand (from): Phil Horne, John Wright, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe, Jeff Crowe (captain), Dipak Patel, Richard Hadlee, John Bracewell, Ian Smith, Danny Morrison, Ewan Chasfield, Evan Gray.

W. Indies seek to secure Test series

Richards to rely on 'pace power'

CALCUTTA, India, Dec 25, (Reuters) — Viv Richards is again expected to use his formidable new set of West Indian pace bowlers to secure the four-match series by blasting India into submission in their third cricket Test starting tomorrow.

Richard's team won the opening Test by five wickets and his fast bowlers have dominated an unreliable Indian batting lineup.

Few changes are likely in the combination which drew with India in the last Test at Bombay, with Patrick Patterson again spearheading the pace attack.

But what is still unclear is the method of Patterson's bowling, which was criticised by Indian newspapers as being short-pitched and intimidating.

Patterson was reported to have been provoked into his aggressive bowling in retaliation to short-pitched bowling by Indian medium pacer Chetan Sharma.

The West Indian pace attack includes Courtney Walsh, Winston Davis and Winston Benjamin, who with Patterson are bidding to make up for the



Shastri: on trial

absence of Joel Garner, who has retired, and Malcolm Marshall, who decided to miss this trip.

For Richards' Indian counterpart Dilip Vengsarkar, the

ar's defiant century in the Delhi Test that India lost and opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth's brave efforts at Bombay.

In the bowling department, only former captain Kapil Dev's medium pace has been effective, with spinners failing even on helpful pitches.

One spinner particularly on trial is Ravi Shastri, whose left arm spin must increasingly compensate for his loss of batting form.

Shastri is reported to be considering the use of spectacles in the Calcutta Test to correct what he feels is an eye problem that has prevented him from attacking the pace bowlers.

Teams — India (from): D. Vengsarkar (captain), K. Srikkanth, M. Azharuddin, A. Lal, M. Amarnath, R. Shastri, Kapil Dev, C. Sharma, A. Ayub, M. Singh, S. Manjrekar, K. More, S. Sharma and N. Hirwani.

West Indies (probable): V. Richards (captain), G. Greenidge, D. Haynes, R. Richardson, A. Logie, C. Hooper, J. Dujon, W. Davis, C. Walsh, W. Benjamin and P. Patterson.

Clough sets European target

LONDON, Dec 25, (Reuters) — Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough has made a place in Europe the target for his high-flying young side in 1988.

Clough believes the European Football Union (UEFA) are set to lift the ban on English teams playing in their three club competitions and he wants Forest, presently lying third in the English First Division, to be ready when the call comes.

Ripe

Clough, preparing for tomorrow's intriguing clash with Arsenal at Highbury, said: "The time is ripe to get back into Europe and I don't see why it shouldn't happen."

"Compared with the trouble that has been going on in places like Holland, Italy and West Germany, this country is lily-

white. We have put our house in order over the last few seasons and now we are the good guys."

"We've been missed abroad and I have a feeling most of the continental fans want us. That's why it's vital we stay in touch at the top of the table because it's important this club qualifies."

Arsenal are currently in second place with 40 points from 20 games, seven points behind leaders Liverpool and just three points ahead of Forest with two more games played.

Forest have not won at Arsenal for 23 years — 13 of them under Clough's unique style of leadership — and victory would lift them into second place and set them up for a genuine challenge to Liverpool, whom

they still have to meet twice.

Clough was at pains to play down any question of a "High-bury jinx," and said: "All records have to end sometime and our Arsenal history doesn't bother us."

"We've come close a few times in recent years and there's no reason why we shouldn't take all three points on this occasion."

Loss

Forest have been beaten just once in their last 11 games despite the loss of exciting winger Franz Carr and striker Paul Wilkinson because of long-term injuries.

Runaway leaders Liverpool should extend their unbeaten start to the season to 20 games when they travel to Oxford tomorrow.

Pleat joins Leicester

LEICESTER, England, Dec 25, (Reuters) — Former Tottenham Hotspur manager David Pleat joined struggling Second Division club Leicester yesterday.

Pleat, who resigned from his £100,000 (\$180,000) a year post at Tottenham in October after newspaper allegations about his private life, will attempt to rescue Leicester from being relegated for the second successive season.

Hingsen may be fined

ESSEN, West Germany, Dec 25, (UPI) — Decathlon star Juergen Hingsen and Olympic champion weightlifter Rolf Milser face possible fines for an unspecified drug offence, authorities have confirmed.

A spokesman for the district attorney of Essen, however, denied speculation that the two athletes are suspected of dealing cocaine and could be sent to jail for years.

The spokesman said Hingsen and Milser were placed under investigation as the result of an

allegation made by one person, whom he did not identify.

He said the offence of which the two men are suspected is relatively minor and would have attracted little notice if the athletes were not so well known.

Hingsen, 29, was silver medalist at the World Championships in 1983 and Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, but failed to win a medal in this year World Championships in Rome after pulling out of the competition with a knee injury.

US nominates tennis teams for Olympics

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (Reuters) — The United States Tennis Association (USTA) on Wednesday nominated five men and three women for the US Olympic teams that will compete in the summer games in Seoul.

John McEnroe and Tim Mayotte were selected for the men's singles competition, while the team of Ken Flach and Robert Seguso were nominated for the doubles competition. Brad Gilbert was selected as the alternate.

Pam Shriver, Zina Garrison and Elise Burgin were chosen for the women's singles team, with Shriver and Burgin in doubles.

The nominations must be approved by the US Olympic Committee and the International Tennis Federation. Announcement of the official teams will be made in January.

The selection procedure was based on membership in the 1987 Davis Cup or Federation Cup teams, current ATP and WTA rankings and player availability.

The Olympic tennis competition will be held from September 20 through October 2.



Kuruppu fights for place in Sri Lankan squad

PERTH, Australia, Dec 25, (Reuters) — Despite scoring an unbeaten double century against New Zealand earlier this year, opener Brendon Kuruppu will be fighting for his place in the Sri Lankan side when their tour of Australia begins tomorrow.

Captain Ranjan Madugalle made it clear selection for the triangular World Series competition with Australia and New Zealand was wide open.

"We have several options for our opening pairing and form in the early tour matches will be vital," Captain Ranjan Madugalle said.

Prospects

The 25-year-old opener will have an opportunity to enhance his prospects in the opening match of the tour tomorrow, a limited overs game against Western Australia. The World Series begins a week later with Sri Lanka facing Australia.

Kuruppu was Sri Lanka's

leading run getter in the World Cup in England in 1983, scoring 182 runs at an average of 30.33. But he was a failure in the World Series matches against Australia and West Indies three years ago, scoring only 41 runs at 10.25.

He also struggled for runs as Roshan Mahanama's opening partner in the World Cup Tournament in India and Pakistan in October, scoring only 69 runs at 13.80.

But Ranji Fernando, the Sri Lankan assistant manager and a national selector, said he was looking for big things on tour from Arjuna Ranatunga after the stocky left-hander had scored 252 runs at an average of 84.00 in the World Cup.

Another batsman Fernando is counting on for runs is talented 21-year-old Aravinda de Silva.

"He has scored two Test centuries, but hasn't been consistent enough to make the impact he should have", Fernando said.

Slaney opts out of indoor season due to injury

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (AP) — Fearing a serious injury that might force her to miss the Seoul Olympics, Mary Decker Slaney, the nation's premier woman's middle-distance runner, will forgo the 1988 indoor track season.

"Slaney is suffering from an injured right calf, which her coach, Luiz de Oliveira, said yesterday was not serious."

However, de Oliveira, said "we decided to take care of it now. If we didn't, it might be too late."

Slaney has made the Olympics her primary aim. She does not want to jeopardise her chance of winning a medal — something that has eluded her during an illustrious career.

"Winning an Olympic medal is now the major goal in my career," said Slaney, who fell and injured her ribs after colliding with Britain's Zola Budd during the 3,000-metre final in the 1984 Los Angeles Games. "I don't want to risk any more injuries by racing indoors."

Slaney, the American outdoor record holder at all distances between 800 metres and 10,000 metres, had planned to compete

in three indoor races — The Pacific Northwest Bell indoor games at Portland, Oregon, Jan 23; the Millrose Games at New York Feb 5; and the US Olympic invitational at East Rutherford, New Jersey on Feb 13.

Dick Brown, her former coach and current adviser, said it was undecided when Slaney would compete for the first time next year, but it probably would not be until late spring.

Slaney has not competed since last Feb 28, when she set a course record of 32 minutes, 3 seconds, in winning a 10-kilometre race at Phoenix, Arizona.

De Oliveira said Slaney would "take off the next 15 days . . . and see how she reacts to the injury."

Brown said, "due to the hard, wooden surface and tight turns used for the indoor season, middle distance runners are more susceptible to injury. Mary doesn't need to take those unnecessary types of risks in such an important year."

The troublesome call is the same that Slaney injured during the 1985 US Olympic invitational — the last time she competed indoors.



ANNOUNCEMENT KUWAIT CHESS FEDERATION

Kuwait Chess Federation would like to announce the opening of the 8th Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Memorial open Chess Championship, which will be held on 4.T.1988.

Registration for male and female competitors will take place at K.C.F. premises in Jabriya, between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. from 27th to 31st December, daily, (each participant should bring one photo)

After completion of registration, competitors will be required to attend the pairings meeting on 2.1.1988 at the playing hall. Pairing will commence sharp at 7 p.m.

Winners will be awarded prizes. K.C.F reserves the right of rejecting any applicant without giving any reasons, even he is qualified for the championships.

PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Mexico calls off Formula One Grand Prix

MEXICO CITY, Dec 25, (Reuters) — Mexico's 1988 Formula One motor racing Grand Prix has been called off because of the country's economic crisis.

The private organisers of the race, scheduled for next June 5, said they were cancelling it to support the government's recent tough austerity measures.

Waste

The pre-Christmas announcement on Wednesday night came as a shock to the country's sporting community but was welcomed by most Mexicans, who saw the race as a waste of money and exclusively for the "jet set."

The cancellation reflected Mexico's worst-ever economic crisis, with growing discontent

over a recent austerity package decreed by the government.

The package is supposed to bring inflation down from its present 150 per cent a year. But it included massive price hikes which shook the nation and brought warnings by opposition politicians that street violence could erupt.

The Grand Prix, popular in the 1960s until unruly crowds led to a ban in 1970, was resumed with great fanfare in 1986 and was held again in October when Britain's Nigel Mansell won in his Williams.

But, like the 1986 soccer World Cup, it was an incongruous event, priced way out of the reach of the poverty-stricken Mexicans who live in slums a stone's throw from the racetrack.

The race was organised by local businessman Jose Abed, whose family controlled all aspects of the multi-million dollar event, including TV rights.

Abed was immediately criticised by sports fans for calling off the race. The Christmas Eve edition of the sports daily Opciones said it could not understand why Abed cancelled it, since he had said he made a huge profit out of the 1987 race.

Mexican sports journalists said they believed Abed had taken the decision at the behest of President Miguel de la Madrid's government. De la Madrid, who leaves office after a six-year term in 1988, is said to be seriously concerned over the possibility of anti-government violence as a result of the economic crisis.

In the run-up to the 1986 soccer World Cup, there were widespread calls from opposition groups for its cancellation. Individual match tickets for World Cup matches cost at least a week's wages for the average Mexican and stadiums were half-empty for most games.

The motor race was held at the Rodriguez Brothers' Autodrome, close to the capital's international airport and on the edge of one of the poorest areas. At the 1987 event, poor Indians outside the circuit gazed at expensively-dressed white girls and flashy cars going through the gates.

The organisers' announcement said they hoped the economic crisis would have waned in

time to hold the race in 1989.

The 1987 Mexican Grand Prix was the third-last event of the calendar. In 1988, it was to have been the fourth event.

Altitude

The race caused particular problems for Formula One races because of Mexico City's 2,300-metre altitude. The thin air meant the normally-aspirated engines had no chance, while the turbo engines, with air pumps, swept the top placings.

In 1987 the race ended in chaos after the chequered flag was lowered three laps too early. It had also been stopped and restarted after a crash and Mansell was named the winner after the racers' first-stage and second-stage times were added together.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball pitcher

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (AP): Pitcher Dave Righetti, who spurned a reported \$10-million offer to play in Japan, agreed in principle Wednesday to a three-year, \$4.5-million deal that will keep him with the New York Yankees through the 1990 season. Righetti becomes the first pitcher to get more than a two-year deal since baseball's free agent market tightened up in the winter of 1985.

Belgian coach

BRUSSELS, Dec 25, (Reuters): Former international defender Walter Meeuwis will succeed Guy Thijs as Belgian national team coach in July 1989. Soccer union secretary-general Alain Courtois said Meeuwis, 36, will assist Thijs from July 1988 and will take full responsibility from July of the following year.

W. German driver

BONN, Dec 25, (Reuters): West German Formula One driver Christian Danner has failed to land a contract with the French LC-Lola team and appears to be without a drive for the coming season.

Top sportsman

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 25, (Reuters): Basketball hero Oscar Schmidt, a three-point specialist, was named Brazilian Sportsman of the Year in a poll conducted by Placar, a sports magazine, it was reported yesterday.

National draw

CAIRO, Dec 25, (Reuters): National draw 1-1 (half-time 1-0) with fellow Cairo side Zamalek today in an Egyptian Soccer League match.

S. African athletes

MBABANE, Dec 25, (Reuters): Swaziland has barred three South African athletes from representing it at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, the chairman of Swaziland's Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association, Geoff Reef, said.

World Cup

VIENNA, Austria, Dec 25, (AP): A warm weather front that melted away ski tracks has forced organisers to call off the men's World Cup downhill scheduled to be staged at Schladming on Dec 31, the Austrian APA news agency reported yesterday.

Shoriki Cup

TOKYO, Dec 25, (AP): Led by world super-heavyweight champion Grigory Verichev of the Soviet Union, a field of 105 judoka from 21 countries will compete in the 6th Shoriki Cup international collegiate judo championships in Tokyo in January, organisers said yesterday.

Graham Rix

LONDON, Dec 25, (UPI): Former England midfielder Graham Rix makes his debut for Third Division Brentford tomorrow after joining the club on a month's loan from Arsenal. Rix, 30, has recovered from a long-standing achilles tendon injury and will begin his comeback with Brentford which is at home to Aldershot.

Games bid

MANCHESTER, England, Dec 25, (UPI): The city of Manchester has put in a last-minute bid to be considered for the British nomination to host the 1996 summer Olympic Games.

1988 Games

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Dec 25, (AP): A senior Soviet sports official said today that he expected Moscow would send a team to the 1988 summer Olympic Games in Seoul, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

Liverpool to face Napoli

AN official source at United Arab Emirates' Jazira football club revealed yesterday that the details for an international match between Napoli of Italy and Liverpool of England would be announced this week.

The source said that the match would be held at the Sheikh Zayed stadium which can accommodate 50,000 spectators and is one of the biggest in the region.

The source added that the fin-

SOUTH KOREA WIN ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Al Bloushi captures boxing gold

ALI Al Bloushi, Kuwait's only finalist at the 13th Asian Boxing Championship, brought the crowd to its feet as he overcame a strong challenge from Pakistan's Dildar Ahmed to capture the gold medal in the super-heavyweight category at Kuwait's Handball Federation Hall on Thursday evening.

Al Bloushi, Pakistan's Hussein Shah and Mongolia's Baya Khan were the only boxers in the 12 categories to prevent a total sweep by the South Koreans, who won the championship with nine golds.

Moved

Al Bloushi's victory not only brought a gold medal to his country but also moved Kuwait into fourth place in the medals standings. The only other medal won by Kuwait was a bronze through Yousef Al Amer in the light-middleweight class.

Dildar Ahmed had a big advantage in height and reach but found that Al Bloushi always remained too close for comfort. Al Bloushi kept on taking the fight to his opponent and the judges were unanimous in their decision in his favour at the end of the bout.

Al Bloushi's punches packed a lot of power and whenever he made contact, Dildar found himself in trouble.

Pakistan's Hussein Shah made sure that his country went home with at least one gold medal when he outpunched his Syrian opponent, Hussain Kurdiya. Baya Khan of Mongolia found himself in similar circumstances against a tough opponent, Adrianos of



Al Bloushi (right) raises his arms in victory.

Indonesia, but came out on top.

Besides these three fighters, the day belonged to the South Koreans. They were a class of their own as boxers from the other countries wilted under their onslaught. With such a big haul, South Koreans have sound-

ed out a warning to the other countries which will take part in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

South Korea with nine golds were followed on the medals table by Mongolia with one gold and two silvers. Pakistanis were in third place with one gold, one silver, and six bronzes.

Kuwait had one gold and one bronze. Iraq captured four silver and five bronze, Thailand one silver and one bronze, India one silver and eight bronze, Indonesia one silver and one bronze, Syria one silver and Japan and Sri Lanka one bronze each.

The finals were attended by Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia, who was deputising for Sheikh Jaber Al Ali — the patron of the championship.

Organiser

Also present were the president of the International Boxing Federation, Anwar Choudhry, and the president of the Kuwait Boxing Federation, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali, who was the organiser of the event.

The prizes were given to the winners at the end of the finals by Sheikh Fahd, Sheikh Mubarak and Anwar Choudhry. In a speech during the closing ceremonies, said that Kuwait had gained a lot of experience by staging this event. He thanked all the participants in the championship for



Anwar Choudhry presents a medal to one of the winners.

the wonderful spirit that they had shown. He also thanked all those who had contributed to the successful holding of this event.

The delegation heads of Pakistan and India presented shields to Sheikh Mubarak at the closing ceremony.

Results of all the fights:

Light-flyweight: Kung Suho (S. Korea) beat Shatachi (Thailand).

Flyweight: Kim Kung (S. Korea) beat Torsak (Thailand).

Bantamweight: Yong Moher (S. Korea) beat Abbas Khalaf (Iraq).

Featherweight: Tak Yong (S. Korea) beat Asakarl (Mongolia).

Lightweight: Baya Khan (Mongolia) beat Andrianos (Indonesia).

Light-welterweight: Kim Li (S. Korea) beat Ankiat Mikha (Mongolia).

Welterweight: Kwang Su (S. Korea) beat Ravi Chand (India).

Light-middleweight: Park Si (S. Korea) beat Abbas Khalaf (Iraq).

Middleweight: Hussain Shah (Pakistan) beat Hussain Kurdiya (Syria).

Light-heavyweight: Kim Young (S. Korea) beat Aamer Jabber (Iraq).

Heavyweight: Tak Hui (S. Korea) beat Ahmad Sabri (Iraq).

Super-heavyweight: Ali Al Bloushi (Kuwait) beat Dildar Ahmed (Pakistan).

Al Bloushi carries his daughter into the ring after receiving his medal.



Al Bloushi carries his daughter into the ring after receiving his medal.

Fay renews call for multinational Cup

SAN DIEGO, Dec 25, (AP): New Zealander Michael Fay delivered Christmas wishes to the San Diego yacht club this week, with a letter that reopened his call for a multinational America's Cup regatta and accused Sail America of trying to "jimmy the rules."

Fay's letter accompanied final documents from a New York supreme court judge who ordered SDYC to accept a challenge issued by Fay or forfeit the prestigious sailing trophy.

Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick signed her Nov 25 ruling that Fay's challenge for a 1988 race in 90-foot waterline boats was valid.

Battle

In his three-page letter, Fay also disputed the approximate dates Sail America has set for its one-on-one battle against Auckland's Mercury Bay Boating Club, and blasted the syndicate for considering using a multihull boat and moving the race from San Diego waters.

Sail America is managing the yacht club's defence.

Fay said Sail America chief operating officer Tom Ehman said he intended "jimmy the rules" to guarantee a successful

defence, a claim Ehman denied. "I don't understand where he gets that 'jimmy the rules' from," Ehman said. "But he can't drive a wedge between San Diego Yacht Club and Sail America. You've got to have thick skin as a defender, and we've got that resolve."

He added, "I think Michael Fay is finally seeing that a line has been drawn."

Last week Fay met with SDYC officials and failed to convince them to open the race to other challengers. The yacht club says it is playing by the rules set forth in the 100-year-old deed of gift that governs America's Cup competition in excluding other syndicates.

Sail America and SDYC also have reserved the right to name a new venue and design a different class of boat, providing it met the restrictions of the deed of gift.

In his letter, Fay reiterated his objections to those proposals. "Contrary to Sail America's stated intentions, your club may not unilaterally declare that it will select sailing courses anywhere other than off San Diego, Fay wrote."

"Nor can San Diego Yacht Club defend by sailing a multihull against a monohull," he added.

The heads of the Pakistani (left) and Indian delegations present mementos to Sheikh Mubarak.



Top-seeded

Italian falls

in Florida

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec 25, (AP): Chile's Marcarena Miranda upset top-seeded Annalia Dell'orso of Italy yesterday to advance to the semifinals of girls 16 play at the Orange Bowl international tennis championships.

Miranda, seeded eighth, outlasted Dell'orso 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 in the fifth-round match. The three other players seeded among the top four advanced.

Outlasted No. 2 Florence Labat of Argentina beat Erika Delone of the United States, 6-2, 6-3. No. 3 Audra Keller of the United States beat fifth-seeded Maureen Drake of Canada 6-4, 6-2. No. 4 Dieder Herman of the United States outlasted sixth-seeded Patricia Miller of Uruguay 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

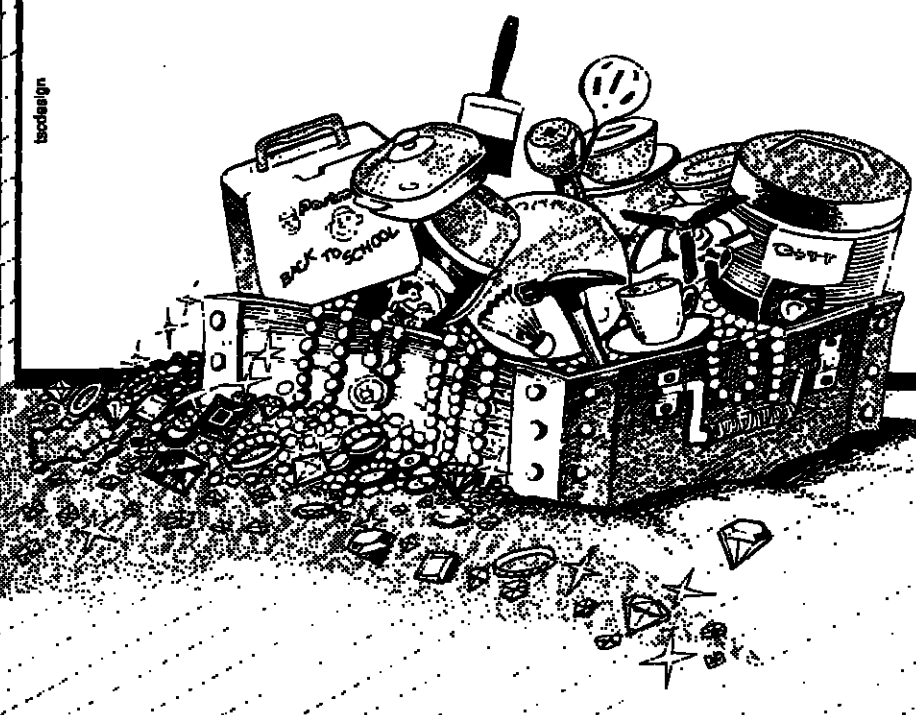
Jane Yates of Canada upset second-seeded Tanja Weigl of West Germany 6-3, 6-2, to advance to the quarterfinals of girls 18 play.

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Draw held for Amir's Cup

THE Kuwait Football Association, in a meeting on Thursday, made the draw for the Amir's Cup football tournament after the Kuwait national team completes its qualifiers for the Asian Cup soccer tournament.

The qualifiers are to be held in Malaysia in April next year. The Amir's Cup matches are expected to start in late April and finish in early May. The 14 teams

for this event have been divided into two groups.

The first group includes Al Kuwait, Al Naser, Yarmouk, Jahra, Qadisiya, Sulaybiqhat and Fahahel.

Al Arabi is the second group along with Kazmah, Salmiya, Kheitan, Tadamon, Sahel and Shabab. The competition will be held on a knockout basis.

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